

Covering the Space and Treasure Coasts

OUT ON THE COAST

m a g a z i n e

Issue #080, July 2009



TRASH NIGHT THURSDAYS

- July 2nd: Velvet LeNore
- July 9th: Amber Douglas
- July 16th: Kelli Randell
- July 23th: Page King
- July 30th: Shelita Cox

July 3 & 10
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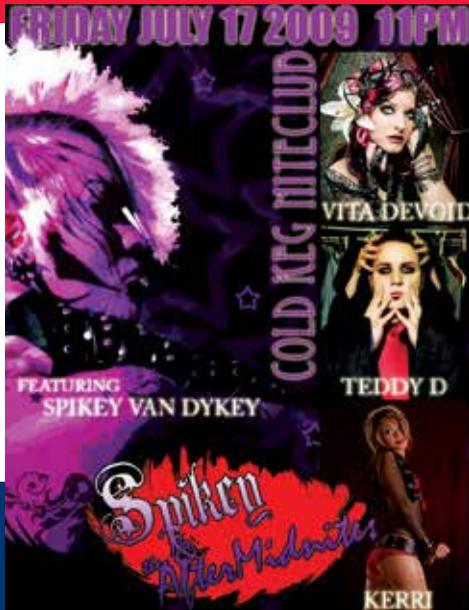
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Saturday, July 4th
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Over 21: One Free Domestic Beer or Well Drink with Paid Entry

SATURDAY GROOVE:
Showtime Midnight

- July 11th: Tasha Scott with CJ & Jackie
- July 18th: Tiffany McCray with Eli & Franki
- July 25th: Susan Whitney with Lollipop & Jezebel



\$5 Cover July 24:
Alexi Leigh & Julie Douglas
\$5 Cover July 31:
Roz Russell & Roseanne DeShanaro

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MONDAYS: KARAOKE WITH NIKKI 7 PM to midnight
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 PO Box 155, Roseland, FL 32957
 772.913.3008
 Sales@OOTCmag.com

publisher/editor
 Lee A. Newell II
LeeN@ootcmag.com
contributing writers
 Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Seay
 Rev. Gregory L. Denton
 Rev. Susan Kliebenstein
 Miss T

photographers
 Richard Cases
 Phillip Winton
 Jon Schnurr

account executives
 Dan Hall 772-626-1682
DanH@ootcmag.com
 Phillip Winton 321-213-4097
PhilW@ootcmag.com

national advertising representative
 Rivendell Media Company
 1248 Rt. 22 West
 Mountainside, NJ 0709
 908-232-2021

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Issue #080
 June 25, 2009

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July 18th: Christiana Sinclair,
Latrice Royale & Crystle Chambers

July 25th: Velvet LeNore,
Faith Taylor & Sheena Divine

HOT MALE & FEMALE DANCERS WEEKLY!

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HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

With Uranus going retrograde on the 1st we all will have to rely on our faith instead of the facts, be strong and believe in yourself. On the 3rd, Mercury will go into Cancer thus allowing all to think more about what serves them, but that's a quick thought because Mercury will continue on to Leo on the 17th, opening up the avenue for creativity and thoughts of playfulness. Venus goes into Gemini on the 5th and Mars does the same on the 11th. This will give all the ability to communicate both by actions and word what they love. Full moon and lunar eclipse the 7th in Capricorn opens the avenue for foundational feelings. Finally bringing us to the solar eclipse and new moon on the 21st. This is the summer solstice and its void of course. If you haven't noticed I'm telling you to go with the flow because what changes this month will change again.

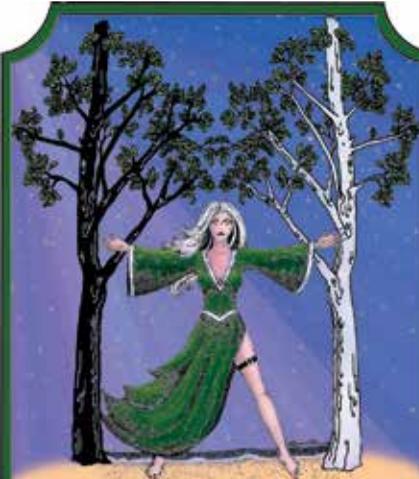
Aries March 23 - April 22 You are the social butterfly this month. Learn to divide your time between old friends and new ones. Everyone wants to bask in your energy so, enjoy the moment and show everyone how fun you are to be with.

Taurus April 23 - May 22 The energy you put in to keeping the peace pays off for you this month. Now is the time for you to act. Use this month to let go of the secrets, as the repercussions will be less than what you think. Be as you are steadfast in your values for they serve you well.

Gemini May 23 - June 22 With Venus and Mars eclipsing you this month, the focused energy they bring may be a bit intense. Be flexible, use your problem solving skills and available resources to redefine your outlook on life and seek new ways of enhance your happiness.

Cancer June 23 - July 22 Happy Solar Return! Mercury will be with you from the 4th to the 17th, remain diligent and alert as you are guided in making proper decisions. Your ability to communicate will be a beacon to other and like the oracle they will seek your advice. Be egocentric and you'll find happiness not only for yourself but also those around

continued on page 8



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continued from page 6

you.

Leo July 23 – August 22 A multitude of changes are instore for you this month, be flexible, especially after the full moon on the 7th. Slow and steady wins the race now. Nothing is urgent. New ideas will be popping up. Use that information to alter your path for the better in the long term. Don't get caught up in the urgency of the moment or you may find yourself cleaning up someone else's mess.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 Do your best to avoid conflicts this month it is not in your best interest. Immerse yourself in work related projects the distraction will ease your troubled mind, especially when it comes to your love life. Your energy attracts what opposes you use it as it brings a refreshing change in perspective and makes a good diversion.

Libra September 23 – October 22 Last month was a little bit of a struggle to stay balanced, but this month you're free to bring out your true personality and opinions. Your communication skills are heightened and others will respect your frankness. You'll also find this is a great month for accomplishing those projects that have been challenging.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Thank God June is over! The blockages that were in your way last month have been removed. It's full steam ahead. Others will be willing to jump on your bandwagon and help you accomplish your goals. They'll listen and help.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Discrimination is the key word for you this month. Challenges will arise in both business and love. You don't have to right all the wrongs. Sometimes it's just better to walk away or eliminate it out of your life. This would be the time

to clean house. Patience will also help.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 The sun and Mercury are both opposing you now thus illuminating all the flaws in your plans. Take the time to readjust your course to accommodate the circumstances and you'll find it to be a good learning experience. If you don't, you'll find others to be challenging to work with and you'll feel like a salmon swimming up stream.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 After last month you may have developed an "I don't care" attitude with others. Well, maybe it's time to get out and meet new people that are going in the same direction you are. You may be pleasantly surprised with who you might find.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 With Uranus going retrograde in your sign, you will be challenged. Take things slow and don't feed into it. Learn to ask more questions and not take it personally. This is your time to be enlightened to the challenges with your endeavors. Nothing now is long term.

For those who want to know: There wasn't a clear pattern for this month. The closest I could find would be the bucket. Usually there are 9 planets on one side and 1 planet on the other side of the chart. This month the bucket is just a little larger, however there is 1 distinct planet to make the handle. The planet that's the handle strongly influences the rest. In this month's case, the handle is Pluto in Capricorn, which means that the changes being made now are foundational. All should look at the long term ramifications now and change your actions accordingly and all will fall into place in its own time.

Monthly horoscopes by Jacqueline. She is at B&A Flea Market in Stuart every weekend from 10 to 2. For



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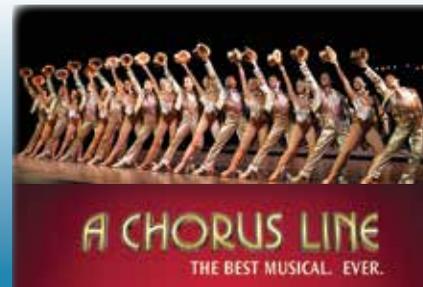
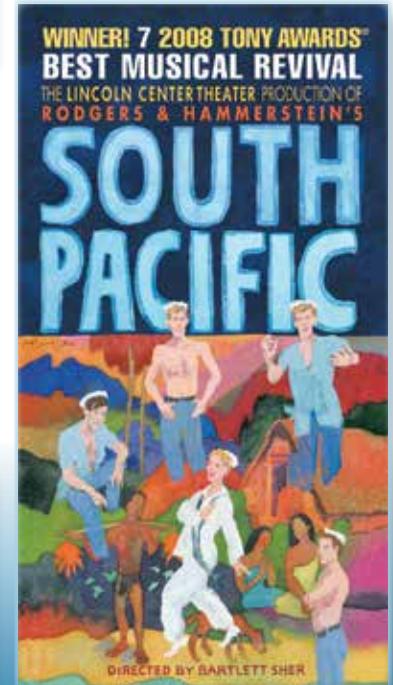


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Tea Time

with Miss T



At her farewell party, Sharon was presented with a cake and flowers from her employees and entertained by some of her favorite drag queens as well as her favorite male stripper, M and M. Well, if you weren't there you missed it! Sharon's going away party at **Cold Keg** was jam-packed with people, talent and tributes to Sharon for her long-time support of our community. The astute among you will note that she isn't gone yet – and you'd be right – Jojo is taking over operations at the **Cold Keg** beginning in July. So we say goodbye to a familiar face in our community and hello to a new one.

Speaking of new, **Emerald City** nightclub is the newest gay bar in Melbourne. Up on Babcock Street just north of the railroad tracks, on the same side of the street as Sonic it's a cozy place that, we're sure, will prove to be a favorite little watering hole for folks. Stop in and check the place out, say hello to J-VO and the staff and enjoy yourself. They're opening just as we go to press so you'll have to wait until next month for pictures.

Up at **Ultra Lounge** in Cocoa Village, they now have an entire week of activities going on, from Karoke to movies to coffee night to Lesbian night to live DJs – just to please you! Stop in, it's a great place to chill, party, hang or network, and it's the only place in the north half of the county to do it.



Board members from **Pride of the Treasure Coast** attended the **Vero Beach PFLAG 10th Annual Pride Dinner** to present a check for \$1,500 from the proceeds of **Pride of the Treasure Coast 2009**.

The **Living Room of Brevard's Space Coast Pride** is finishing up the totals on this year's events and will be handing out substantial amounts to area organizations including Project Response, NOW and Melbourne PFLAG and will be placing some \$10,000 in the building fund! They will start planning **Space Coast Pride 2010** in August, so if you're interested in getting involved stop by either web site, TLRbrevard.org or SpaceCoastPride.org and let them know.

Project Response, through **Kelli Randell**, has been running a series of benefits to send 23 kids whose lives

EMERALD CITY Nightclub



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are impacted by HIV/AIDS to summer camp at Camp Heartland in Minnesota. The events started out at the Clubhouse Bar and Grill in Vero, where they raised over \$1,200! Then the event moved on to **REBAR** where over \$1,800 was raised!! That makes the bar, so to speak, pretty high for the final event at **Cold Keg** on June 28. It will be Sharon's last benefit so we know it will be a fantastic one. **Kelli** has come through for kids once again, even getting a club on the west coast to donate proceeds from a benefit there to this project (seems the bar's donation was turned down by their local agency).

Cosmic Charley's just keeps you guessing. A couple of weeks ago Kyle showed up with four British armed forces guys who got into the spirit of the night and helped entertain everyone. The key to this night's popularity is that you just never know what's going to happen but you can be sure it's going to be fun!

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Spiritually Speaking

Forty years is a long time to me. Forty years was the length of time that it took the children of Israel to travel out of their period of slavery in Egypt to their new home in the Promised Land of Israel. For forty years the people had traveled in the desert, facing unfriendly people, lack of food, lack of water, disease, and boredom. I know I can become very tired when traveling if I don't see much progress in arriving at my destination. I can't imagine traveling and living out of a tent for forty years in the desert.

And when the people arrived at their new land, they still had to deal with more unfriendly people, more illness, and a general lack of resources to provide for them. After forty years of misery and difficulty, they finally reached their goal and were still greatly disappointed. Their new home was not what they had expected. Maybe they didn't really know what to expect.

The number forty in the Bible is used often to refer to a period of time of transition and learning. It is a time of change, when one moves from one place or even a way of life to another. Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness when he was about to begin his public ministry. He had to move from being just another average worker in the work force into being a teacher and a religious leader.

The Bible gives us the story of Noah living in his ark, or boat. It rained for

forty days and nights, according to the story. The end result was a new beginning for Noah and his family.

Today, we continue with the concept of forty. The season of Lent (in the spring) is a time of forty days between Ash Wednesday and Easter. It is a time to review our lives and see if there are changes we need to make in our lives. Permanent change does not always happen instantly. It is often a process, requiring time for us to learn new habits in our lives.

There is another forty we are facing this year. This month is the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City. Forty years ago a group of drag queens and their supporters decided to not take any more abuse. They began to fight back. It must have been embarrassing for the police officers who had to go back to their station knowing that a group of queens had beat them up.

The Stonewall Rebellion was the beginning of our modern day exodus from the slavery of our Egypt, heading toward the promised land of equality. For the past forty years, we have seen many slow changes in our land. But they are changes. For forty years we have argued for equal rights in the workplace, for equality in the military, for a place at the table of politics, and marriage equality. Now, forty years later, we are starting to arrive at our

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Cosmic Charley's
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Cosmic Charley's



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TUESDAY

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 HORS D'OEUVRES
 KARAOKE 9PM

WEDNESDAY

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 HORS D'OEUVRES
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Cold Keg

photos: Lee



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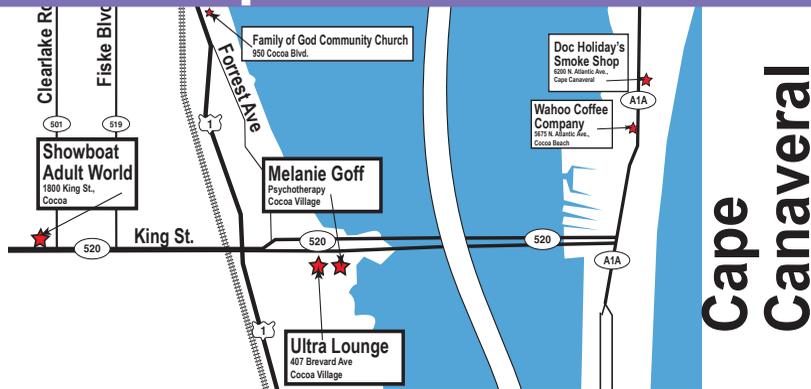
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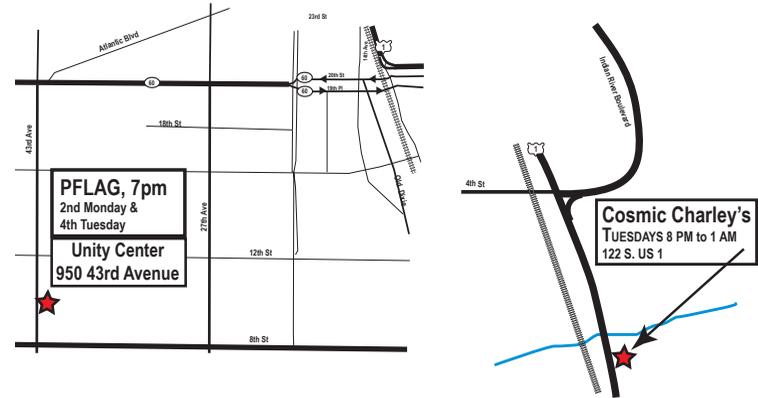
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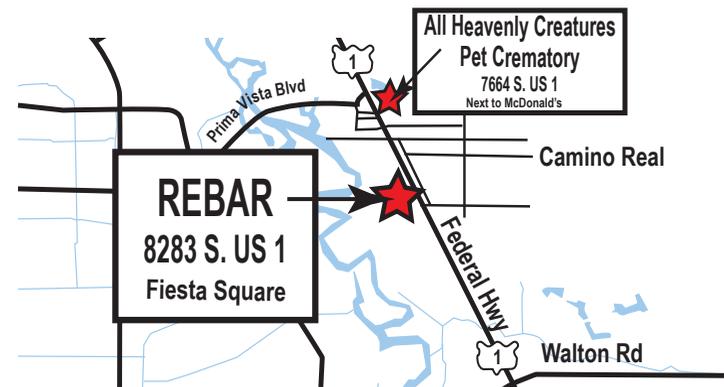
Vero Beach



Ft. Pierce

Melbourne

Palm Bay



Port St. Lucie

Vero Beach PFLAG 10th Annual Pride Dinner Dance



The highlights of this year's sold-out dinner were the presentation by Pride of the Treasure Coast (see picture page 10) and the entertainment followed by presentation of plaques of appreciation to various members who have provided outstanding service to Vero Beach PFLAG.



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promised land. With several states now legalizing same sex marriage, we are beginning to realize that we are arriving.

But like the children of Israel, just because we are starting to arrive doesn't mean that we have everything we have been hoping for. We still have a long way to go. At the same time, when we look back, we can see that we have come a long way already.

As we celebrate our Gay Pride Month and the fortieth anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, let us remember those who have fought for our rights over the years and who have worked hard to help us move from our land of slavery. We celebrate the many victories our community has won. Forty years – what a journey we have had! I wonder what the next forty years holds in store for us?

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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East Coast Christian Community (EC3) is pleased to announce that on Sunday, July 12, Linda Beckstad and Susie Brenner of Omaha, Nebraska, will be returning for their fourth visit. Susie writes and performs some of her own songs as well as performing others. Some of her songs are based on her experiences in recovery. Linda is a high school teacher who will be speaking at both services on July 12. They will be at the Port St Lucie service at 10 a.m. and the Melbourne service at 5 p.m. The Port St Lucie service is at the St Lucie Shrine Club, 4600 Oleander, between Ft Pierce and Port St Lucie, while the Melbourne service is at 1603 S Wickham Road in Melbourne.

IN THE NEWS

For current headlines see our website: www.ootcmag.com

DUNEDIN—Thursday, June 4th the Dunedin city commission unanimously voted to pass a city ordinance adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the city's nondiscrimination in public accommodations law.

NORTH MIAMI— In a clear repudiation of the divisive politics of gay-baiting, Andre Pierre defeated Frank Wolland in the June 2nd runoff election 2,870 to 2,525. Wolland had been the top vote getter in the May 12th primary.

Wolland had produced a last minute ad appealing to homophobic prejudice by Photoshopping outgoing Mayor Kevin Burns in a romantic pose with Mayoral candidate Andre Pierre on the bow of the Titanic under the headline "Don't worry Andre, they're only icebergs."

Mayor Burns, who is openly gay, had endorsed Andre Pierre. Under Mayor Burns leadership North Miami has made tremendous strides in supporting LGBT families including the passage of one of Florida's strongest Domestic Partnership policies. Andre Pierre has pledged to continue the city's efforts to be welcoming and inclusive of all residents.

MIAMI—The City of Miami Commission voted unanimously, 5-0, on June 11 to adopt a Domestic Partnership Ordinance, becoming the third municipality in Miami-Dade County to do so. Commissioners Sanchez, Sarnoff, Regalado, Gonzalez, and Spence-Jones voted in favor of the Ordinance.

The new Ordinance will allow the City of Miami to offer health benefits to the declared domestic partners and their children of city employees in the same manner as the city offers such benefits to spouses of married heterosexual employees. The Ordinance was similarly adopted by the City of Miami Beach and the City of North Miami. Miami-

Dade County also offers similar benefits to county employees as the result of work done by SAVE Dade and its partners for an ordinance passed in May of last year.

Commissioner Marc Sarnoff said, "Providing employment benefits, including healthcare, to the domestic partners of our City of Miami employees is a common sense idea that has been far too long in coming. This is nothing more than treating people equally. I am proud to say our City is doing the right thing."

Asked about the ordinance, Chairman Commissioner Joe Sanchez replied, "This allows us to recruit and retain the best and brightest workers for the City of Miami by offering benefits to domestic partners. This reaffirms our strong belief that all people are equal in Miami, the City of diversity."

One such employee is Melissa Llera, a City of Miami Firefighter and SAVE Dade volunteer, who has been in a committed relationship with her partner Christie for over 12 years. They have a child together and now both her partner and child will be eligible for health coverage as a result of this Ordinance.

"We thank the Miami's city commission's leadership in recognizing that the families of all city employees deserve fair and equitable treatment," said SAVE Dade's Executive Director, C.J. Ortuno.

It was the combined efforts of Executive Director C.J. Ortuno, former Executive Director Heddy Pena, SAVE Dade's Political Committee, and many volunteers that built the support needed for the Ordinance's successful passage. SAVE Dade also received assistance in developing the language for the ordinance from the LGBT Advocacy Project of the ACLU of Florida, and received assistance in turning out supporters for the commission hearing from other organizations, including Equality

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C.J. Ortuno worked closely with the Ordinance's co-sponsors, Commissioner Marc Sarnoff and Mayor Manny Diaz, to ensure the Domestic Partnership Ordinance was properly vetted and complied with all legal requirements. After legal review by the city attorney, the Ordinance passed first reading on May 14, 2009 with a 4-0 vote.

TALAHASSEE— Equality Florida is proud to announce the launch of an exciting new tool - the Equality Florida ePride Buying Guide.

The Equality Florida ePride Buying Guide is a user-friendly resource that identifies businesses that support equality and those that fund discrimination. Consumers can search either online or, better yet, use a mobile device and get one-click directions to LGBT friendly businesses using the iPhone app.

Equality Florida is on the cutting edge with this new easy to use technology. Our Florida ePride Guide covers all of Florida and other states are joining ePride Guide everyday, making it a valuable resource even when you travel.

Want to add YOUR organization or business to the Equality Florida ePride Buying Guide?

It's easy and free. If you currently have a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation and gender identity, you're qualified. If not, Equality Florida can provide you with a short and simple policy that protects both customers and employees from discrimination in your workplace.

To register your business, visit <http://www.eqfl.org/eprideguide> today.

[eqfl.org/eprideguide](http://www.eqfl.org/eprideguide) today.

HOLLYWOOD—The ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST, a screenplay contest dedicated to the positive portrayal of gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender and queer individuals in film, celebrates its 11th anniversary in 2009.

Entries are now being accepted online and are limited to the first 600 for 2009.

Executive Director, David Jensen, "We are excited to celebrate our 11th anniversary and are looking at a record number of entries this year. We have even added a new contest this year, The Gay (GLBTQ) Movie Title Contest. We are continually amazed with the quality of talent that comes through the door year after year." Jensen continues, "We receive entries from around the globe and Hollywood is taking notice in a very big way. Many of our past winners are now hard working screenwriters"

The ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST has gained respect and notoriety from Hollywood studios, agents and producers. New for 2009 is another contest from One In Ten organizers, The Gay (GLBTQ) Movie Title Contest. So, even if you don't have a completed screenplay and can come up with a great movie title you can still enter. There is no fee for the movie title contest. Entries for both 2009 contests are being accepted online at: www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com

The submission deadline for 2009 ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST is September 1, 2009. Entry forms are available online through the contest website: www.OneInTenScreenplayContest.com.

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Entry forms may also be obtained through the mail by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: CHERUB PRODUCTIONS, One In Ten Screenplay Contest, Post Office Box 540, Boulder, Colorado 80306

NEW YORK—A June 16 report on Queerty.com stated that PlanetOut had apparently closed. After receiving a delisting notice from Nasdaq in March, it appears the company investors knew as "LGBT" is no longer.

PlanetOut, now owned by Regent Media, had 15 days from receiving the notice to prove to the stock exchange it had a plan in place to bring total company equity above \$10 million — a requirement to trade on Nasdaq. In a March 13 press release, PlanetOut said it "currently intends to submit an application to transfer its securities to The Nasdaq Capital Market."

A reader notified Queerty on June 15 that "PlanetOut Inc. just stopped trading today... gone." Indeed, LGBT is no longer being traded; the company's market cap was just \$1.55 million with shares priced at \$0.380. In December 2004, LGBT traded at \$136.

PlanetOut now operates as a part of Here Media, a name change engineered when PlanetOut's media assets (Out, The Advocate) merged with Paul Colichman's Here TV and Regent Entertainment Media thus the delisting as an individual company.

When PlanetOut joined the Nasdaq in 2005 it was heralded as a particularly special moment in gay history: The first all-queer company to trade on a stock exchange.

WASHINGTON, DC—A May 23 report on Queerty.com indicated that some 30 companies and individuals have been sent query letters to see if they're interested in buying all of Window Media or pieces of it. What's under that umbrella these days (*Genre* folded last March, *New England Blade* closed up earlier)?

Publications still in print include: *The Washington Blade*, *The New York Blade*, *The South Florida Blade* (formerly *Express Gay News*), *The Southern Voice*, *Houston Voice*, *David Atlanta*, *411 Magazine*.

There was, reportedly, a two-week timeframe for bidders. The news follows previous reports of a cash crunch at the company and major departures.

Allegedly Regent Media (newish owner of *Out* and the *Advocate*) has expressed some interest.

At press time, www.window-media.com did not fully load and still lists *Genre* although that link goes to a blank page. We were unsuccessful in loading pages for either *411 magazine* or *South Florida Blade* (formerly *Express Gay News*) due to "maintenance".

LOS ANGELES—An openly gay teen has been voted prom queen at his Los Angeles high school in a campaign that began as a stunt but ended up spurring discussion on the campus about gender roles and popularity.

Sergio Garcia said he felt "invincible" when he was crowned queen of the Fairfax High School dance at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel in early June. Days before the dance, Garcia told fellow students that he was "not your typical prom queen candidate. There's more to me than meets the eye." He also promised that he would be wearing a suit on prom night, but "don't be fooled: Deep down, I am a queen." And he made good of that promise wearing a gray tuxedo topped off with the prized tiara.

Garcia, 18, said he saw fliers advertising the prom and the election but they didn't specify that the queen must be female. He thought the role would suit him better than prom king. "I don't wish to be a girl," he told the Los Angeles Times. "I just wish to be myself."

Senior class president Vanessa Lo said she and other students were initially against the idea but became convinced he wasn't just an attention-seeking clown. "It just goes to show how open-minded our class is," Lo said.

Unique Payne, 17, said she voted for Garcia because she supported the gay community. Although many students were supportive of Garcia's run, others were upset and didn't understand why Garcia chose to run for prom queen.

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"I'm not really happy about that," said 17-year-old Juan Espinoza. "He should've run for prom king."

WASHINGTON, DC—An article on edgeProvidence.com reported that GLSEN Founder Kevin Jennings has been appointed to a government position helping to oversee safe schools--and the anti-gay religious right are up in arms.

A May 29 article at religious site WorldNetDaily, which often posts anti-gay content, reported that Gay Straight Lesbian Education Network (GLSEN) founder Kevin Jennings had been appointed to the post of Assistant Deputy Secretary in the Office of Safe Schools.

The article, which put words such as gay and safety in quotation marks, noted that GLSEN had helped to establish the annual Day of Silence, during which GLBT youth and their straight allies spend a school day without speaking as a way of protesting what GLBT youth advocates say is a lack of voice for queer students, who are often the target of harassment, verbal abuse, intimidation, and even physical attacks.

The WND article also noted that GLSEN had played a role in the establishment of Gay/Straight Alliances (GSAs) at schools around the country.

The article quoted Mission America's Linda Harvey, who characterized GLSEN's efforts on behalf of GLBT youth as being "detrimental" to American schools and called Jennings' appointment a "tragedy."

Another anti-gay activist credited Jennings with policy developments in California, reported WND. As quoted in the article,

Capitol Resource Institute director Karen England claimed, "This man's work and his agenda are exactly why we've seen the radical pro-homosexuality curriculum pushed across California."

Warned England, "[Jennings] is now more strongly positioned to implement his agenda nationwide."

The anti-gay site BeetleBlogger claimed that protecting GLBT youth in schools would erode protections for other minorities, and called Jennings "a leading advocate for homosexuality, bisexuality, and transsexuality in schools."

In actuality, Jennings and GLSEN advocate for safety and non-discrimination on behalf of students who self-identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered, and include straight students under the same aegis of school safety.

CHARLESTON, W VA—Proud Parenting reported that the West Virginia State Supreme Court Sided with Lesbians Moms in Custody Case.

The West Virginia Supreme Court has ruled that a lesbian couple should have custody of an 18-month old foster child, overturning a judge's order that the girl should be placed with a heterosexual couple who might adopt her.

The court barred enforcing an earlier ruling by Judge Paul Blake Jr. - which said that the girl should be taken away from Kathryn Kutil and Cheryl Hess. The girl has remained in the couple's custody throughout the court proceedings.

The Supreme Court noted there was no

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reason to believe the girl wasn't thriving with Hess and Kutil, and said there was no legal reason to take her away from the couple.

"As a matter of fact, the court was never presented with any actual evaluation of the home or evidence of the quality of the relationship" the girl had with Kutil and Hess, the justices said. "All indications thus far are that (the girl) has formed a close emotional bond and nurturing relationship with her foster parents, which can not be trivialized or ignored."

West Virginia state law doesn't allow same-sex couples to adopt children, but single people can.

CARSON CITY—The Nevada legislature has overridden the gubernatorial veto of a bill that establishes domestic partnerships for same-sex and opposite-sex couples. The law, which grants domestic partners many of the same legal rights and responsibilities as married couples, will take effect on October 1, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The assembly voted 28-14 to override the veto by Gov. Jim Gibbons, following a 14-7 vote by the senate after an emotional debate. Legislators faced intense lobbying by the tourism industry, which feared a potential boycott by LGBT visitors if the veto were upheld.

Under the new law, domestic partners will have the same rights as married couples in areas such as estate planning, medical decisions, community property, and child care.

The new law specifically states that domestic partnerships are not marriages. Nevada voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2002 that defines marriage as a union between a man and woman.

Gibbons vetoed the bill on the grounds that existing laws already provided adequate domestic contract options.

DETROIT— Charles Pugh, formerly a reporter and anchor for Detroit's Fox television affiliate, has launched a bid for a seat on his hometown's City Council. A victory would make Pugh the first openly

gay person to serve on the council. Pugh, who is being endorsed by the Victory Fund, is not concerned about personal attacks. He said, "My agenda is Detroit's agenda. I just happen to be black, a man and gay."

SPOKANE—Conservatives in Washington state reportedly are divided over whether a drive to seek a ballot referendum to repeal the state's marriage-like domestic-partnership law is the right strategy at this time. "My concern is, in running a referendum, you're not really going to win," said the Rev. Joe Fuiten, founder of Positive Christian Agenda. "All you accomplish is you divide up the community and really alienate a lot of people from the church and from the gospel."

CONCORD, NH—Traditionally conservative New Hampshire on June 3, 2009, became the sixth state in the nation – and the fifth state in New England – where same-sex couples will be allowed to marry.

"Today we're standing up for the liberties of same-sex couples by making clear they will receive the same rights, responsibilities, and respect under New Hampshire law," Governor John Lynch said before signing the legislation in a State House ceremony.

Lynch said it was a New Hampshire tradition "to come down on the side of individual liberties and protections, and that tradition continues today." The room, filled by scores of the bill's supporters, resounded with applause as he signed.

"We're thrilled to death," said Mo Baxley, executive director of the New Hampshire Freedom to Marry Coalition. "We're equal. Equal isn't nothing. Equal is everything."

Gay marriage is now legal in Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts -- all of the new England states, except for Rhode Island. Gay marriage is also legal in Iowa.

Lynch said in mid-May that he would sign a bill legalizing same-sex unions as long as the Legislature made it clearer that religious groups would not be forced to conduct "marriage ceremonies that violate their fundamental religious beliefs."

Lynch said at the bill signing ceremony that the Legislature had amended the bill so that

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REBAR is gearing up for **REBAR IDOL** so get down there and get signed up so you can show your stuff! \$1,500 in prizes, the setup is the same as last year: four preliminary contests on each Friday in July with the finals on the 31st. Milkshake Wednesdays have proven so popular that now every second Wednesday is Milkshake Wednesday with a show and wet jockey shorts and wet T-shirt contests. What a way to cool off on a hot steamy summer night at **REBAR**.

Gateway had a rainy, but awesome BBQ on June 6th, with about 60 people turning up! This was a fund-raiser for Gateway to raise the funds needed to get incorporated and file for non-profit status. Between donations of supplies and generous donations from everyone attending Gateway met its goals. This will allow them to move forward with our goal of opening a Treasure Coast GLBT Center! Gateway is planning more community events so keep checking their website: www.gatewayproject.net

Gay Rights Tidbits: (From Wikipedia) The original gay-pride flag was hand-dyed by Gilbert Baker. It flew in the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade on June 25, 1978. It has been suggested that Baker was inspired by Judy Garland's singing "Over The Rainbow". The flag consisted of eight stripes; Baker assigned specific meaning to each of the colors as follows: hot pink: sexuality; red: life; orange: healing; yellow: sunlight; green: nature; turquoise: magic/art; indigo: serenity/harmony; violet: spirit.

Thirty volunteers hand-dyed and stitched the first two flags for the parade.

After the November 27, 1978, assassination of openly gay San Francisco City Supervisor Harvey Milk, demand for the rainbow flag greatly increased. To meet demand, the Paramount Flag Company began selling a version of the flag using stock rainbow fabric consisting of seven stripes of red, orange, yellow, green, turquoise, blue, and violet. As Baker ramped up production of his version of the flag, he too dropped the hot pink stripe because of the unavailability of hot-pink fabric.

In 1979 the flag was modified again. When hung vertically from the lamp posts of San Francisco's Market Street, the center stripe was obscured by the post itself. Changing the flag design to an even number of stripes was the easiest way to rectify this, so the turquoise stripe was dropped, which resulted in a six stripe version of the flag – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet – that is most common today.



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



John and Dan of Viera, FL, celebrated their 25th Anniversary on June 8, with a fantastic buffet dinner at the Cold Keg in Melbourne. The affair was attended by many friends, co-workers and especially by all of their poker buddies. John & Dan met in Cleveland on June 8, 1984, went home together and have never parted.

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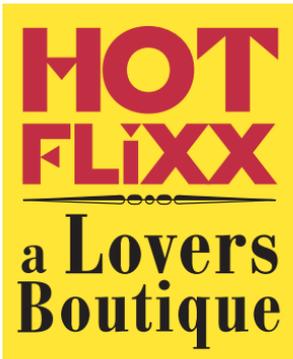
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