

Covering the Space and Treasure Coasts

OUT ON THE COAST

m a g a z i n e



Issue #084, November 2009



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Models: Moose & Raquel Markstone, Cocoa
Photo: LANZ

Issue #084
October 22, 2009

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REBAR

photos: Lee



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HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

As Saturn transitions into Libra, it brings with it a 2 ½ year cycle of enabling us to learn how to balance our lives, especially with personal and intimate relationships. With the full moon in Taurus, we are given the chance to reexamine our personal values and beliefs. Finally, when Neptune goes direct on the 4th the clouds of doubt are swept away allowing us the chance to see our goals and futures that we have envisioned. What dimmed in the spring will shine brightly in winter. On the 15th, Mercury goes into Sagittarius allowing us to find the humor in every situation, good and bad. The new Moon in Scorpio on the 16th will heighten our own intuitive abilities and allow us to make the changes we need for our own happiness.

Aries March 23 - April 22 Drama highlights this month for you and patience is a virtue. Don't waste your time procrastinating or in self-doubt, put the finishing touches on the projects you started in April. After the New moon on the 16th new refreshing adventures will be bestowed upon you and keeping you occupied till spring. So put on your traveling clothes and break out your party shoes, "... it's time to have some fun!"

Taurus April 23 – May 22 It is within your nature to act on impulse and accept challenges without thought, and this month brings plenty. But think before you speak as others may be offended, on your first thought. However,

the full moon in your sign will bring an emotional transformation and change to those around you. Endeavor to keep an open mind and positive attitude, you'll find success just waiting for you around the corner in anything you put your mind to.

Gemini May 23 – June 22 Your lust for life and adventure is heightened now. Let go of the past and look ahead and don't let life pass you by. You'll find the resolutions to what is not serving you in a fresh look from a new environment. So relax and have some fun. After the upcoming holidays, you'll be able to resolve the issues that are afflicting you now.

Jacqueline
772.286.2720
Astrologer/Tarologist

World AIDS Awareness Week Events

Port St Lucie AIDS Week Kick Off Event
Community Center, Airoso Blvd, Port St Lucie
November 28, 2009

HIV/AIDS Remembrance Walk
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December 1, 2009

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Cancer June 23 – July 22 With Saturn going into Libra on the 1st prepare yourself; a new chapter in your life begins. Nothing is urgent at this moment so spend this time attending to those projects that you've been putting off. Seek advice from others but remember the final decision is yours and yours alone to make. Fools rush in but a wise man takes his time, take the time and things will fall into place at the right time.

Leo July 23 – August 22 Your cognitive abilities and decision-making skills are heightened this month use them towards your advantage. Don't dwell on the infinitesimal but refine your long-term goals. Be careful not to be too self indulgent and overly generous or you'll find that all that hard work will be all for not and backfire on you after the sun goes into Sagittarius on the 21st.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 Your insight is heightened now and others will see that and rely on you to make their life more efficient, be not an oracle but a listener and let them solve their

own issues. Put some emphasis on organizing your own life, and things will fall into place effortlessly.

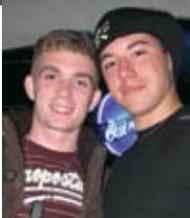
Libra September 23 – October 22 You are beginning a cycle that will last until 2011. As Saturn goes into your sign on the 1st allowing you to review past experiences and learn lessons in responsibility and obligation. Accept and challenge the things that you fear, stand up for your truth and walk though them with the grace and elegance given to you by your birth. But remember, all is neither your obligation nor responsibility and only take on what is yours.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Happy Solar Return! With Mars in Leo this month you'll get the chance to catch your breath and slow down to smell the roses. All good things will come in the right time you just have exercise good judgment, patience and wait. With Venus going into your sign on the 7th, all will attract to you. Enjoy the moment, bask in enlightenment and don't anticipate what will come next. If

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Ultra Lounge

photos Lee



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on Women

THURSDAYS:

Divas
with Raquel Markstone
Personal Impersonations in the Village!

Tea Time

with Miss T

As our cover points out there are different meanings to words: dressing means different things to different people. In the *In The News* section you'll see that unit cohesion means no open gays to one person while military studies show that means no one keeps secrets about who they are.

And we know *you* can keep a secret. Yeah, right! Well, don't tell anyone but **Ultra Lounge** is having a cowboy party on November 14 and everyone is supposed to come in western wear of some sort be it city slicker, Indian, dude, or cowboy – you know breechclout, yeah, or chaps with ropes and spurs all sweaty and well ridden.... um, I mean it's sure to be another one of Tony and Stephanie's great parties.

There was another great party at **Cosmic Charley's** down in Vero the other Tuesday when cast members from *Spelling Bee* at **The Riverside Theatre** stopped in for a few drinks, the show and some dancing. That's the remarkable thing about **Cosmic Charley's**, you never know who's going to turn up.



Cast members from Riverside Theatre's current show, *Spelling Bee*, party with the cast at Cosmic Charley's

A group looking for an evening with a meal and a show should check out **Catering by Culinary Capers A Personal Affair**. For those not in the know, **Culinary Capers** is one of the top catering companies in Vero Beach and they're using the Board Room at their facility to host this event. The inaugural event last month was sold out so they're doing it again on two nights, November 13 & 14. Seating is limited and it's a dinner affair, not a night at the bar, which actually appeal to quite

a few people. Check out CulinaryCapersCatering.com for menu and reservations.

More than a few people showed up at **All Out Fridays at O'Malley's** down in Port St. Lucie for their Pink nights benefiting Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. Celebrating Breast Cancer Awareness month with raffles and performances the total came to \$326.00 for Breast Cancer research. Kudos to **O'Malley's**, Famous Productions and everyone involved for the putting together a unique event in our community. They will be following this up with a food drive in November.

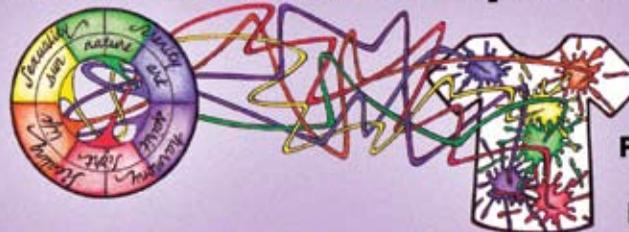


Famous Productions with (from left above) Adrian, Kelli and Shirley raised money for breast cancer research at O'Malley's. It was a great group effort for a worth cause.

Unique means one of a kind and, of course, every relationship is unique. And considering the immense divorce rate in the married community, it's incredible that couples in our community stay together in the face of disapproval, discrimination and rejection. Add being a public person, with our community's love of rumor, gossip,

ANNOUNCING: Space Coast Pride 2010

Logo Design Contest



Public Vote will choose logo for T-Shirt & Promotional Materials

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Danny & Kelli celebrate 20 years together on November 21st.

backstabbing and jealously and you just have to be amazed that Danny and **Kelli Randell** are celebrating 20 years together. Of course **Kelli** will be performing the night of the 21st, so all their friends and admirers should show up and wish them happy anniversary.

The Living Room's anniversary dinner is coming up November 15th, at the Yellow Dog again this year. Acknowledging the economy, they've dropped the price to \$60 a plate this year and it's still a dress-up event although no longer black tie (I'll bet more than one will show up, though – there is no other dress-up event in our community). If you're interested in attending, check out their web site at www.TLRbrevard.org. While you're there notice that **The Living Room** has once again started their logo design contest for next year's Pride Fest. Everyone tell Jeffrey Freeman please – we swear we told him last year and promised he would know about it this year. Deadline is the end of this

year with on line voting in January and the reveal at a benefit in February. So all you artists out there get busy!

And don't forget **Gay Skate** is this Sunday, October 25th. It's **The Living Room's** final event of this kind for the year, January will see the return of Bowling. In the mean time **The Living Room** is working with Project Response on their holiday toy drive. There are nearly 150 children in Project Response's service area that they provide toys for and with their budget cut to the bone, Project Response needs all the help they can get.

Finally, those busy beavers at **The Living Room** want me to remind you that they have a self-defense course, open to the public on October 26. For only \$10 you can stop in and learn about person protection from a retired Melbourne Police Commander. Again, it's all on their web site – surely you've bookmarked it by now!

Another site you should have bookmarked is SpaceCoastBusinessGuild.org to keep up on

continued on page 18

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continued from page 7

you do, this month will bring you great pleasure and fulfillment.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 Party on dudes! With Mars in Leo and Mercury going into your sign on the 15th, you'll be the center of attention. All will come to you for advice and companionship. The exchange of energy will be intoxicating and you'll be the life of the party. So take advantage of the sudden stardom and party like a rock star and have some fun. Keep in reserve some of this energy and put it towards writing or keeping a journal or just make notes of your thoughts; they'll come in handy later.

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 Hold on tight because this will be a bumpy ride! The shift in your foundation has begun. Look at it as a change in your attitude on what you perceive as right and wrong. Others will be drawn to seek your advice, but don't let their actions distract you from your path. Remember if you teach a man to fish he will eat for the rest of their life.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 You'll be highly emotional this month which leads to feelings of being overwhelmed and cornered setting off your fight or flight defenses. Stop, take a step back and breathe deeply and slow. You've already discussed what changes you need to make, now is the time to implement them and let the rest take care of itself. Take the time necessary to recheck and reevaluate your priorities, remember there's always another way even if you don't see it at the moment.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 Balance would be the key word for you now. Take the time necessary to bring inner peace and happiness to you before devoting time and aid to others. If you're not happy with yourself, you can't be helpful to others. Before tackling a tough issue,

look at it from all angles then proceed in a manner befitting someone of your stature.

For those who want to know: I've chosen the moon's nodes this month and next to help others understand the emotional changes that are occurring for all. The nodes are specific points in the path of the sun where the moon intersects. Like the poles on this earth (north and south), but they are called nodes on the moon. The south node represents the past, old Karmic debt and what holds us back. Right now the south node is in Cancer. Which means what is blocking our happiness is holding onto the past, old habits, and old traditions. It also allows us to finish what doesn't serve us and pay off old debts. All of us are wanting to feel nurtured and enjoy our creature comforts. The north node tells you how to get it. Stay tuned next month for the answer.

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

*Breast Cancer
is survivable.
Remember:
self-exams
doctor's exams
mammograms*

EMERALD CITY

Saturday, October 31

HALL-O-QUEEN PARTY

FREE
WI-FI

FREE
WI-FI

Nov. 6 - Casino Night

Help Hungry Families, Fundraiser

Nov. 7 - Roz Russell

Nov.13 - Friday the 13th

Fright Night Party

Nov.14 - Utopia

White Party w/ FOXXXY ROCKET

Nov. 20 - Boots & Boxers

E C'S Boots & Boxers Party

Nov. 21 - Page King

Nov. 27 - Black Friday Bash

Wear all black get a free drink

Nov. 28 - Holiday Hangover

Music - Games - Beer

Wednesdays - Game Night

including free texas hold em

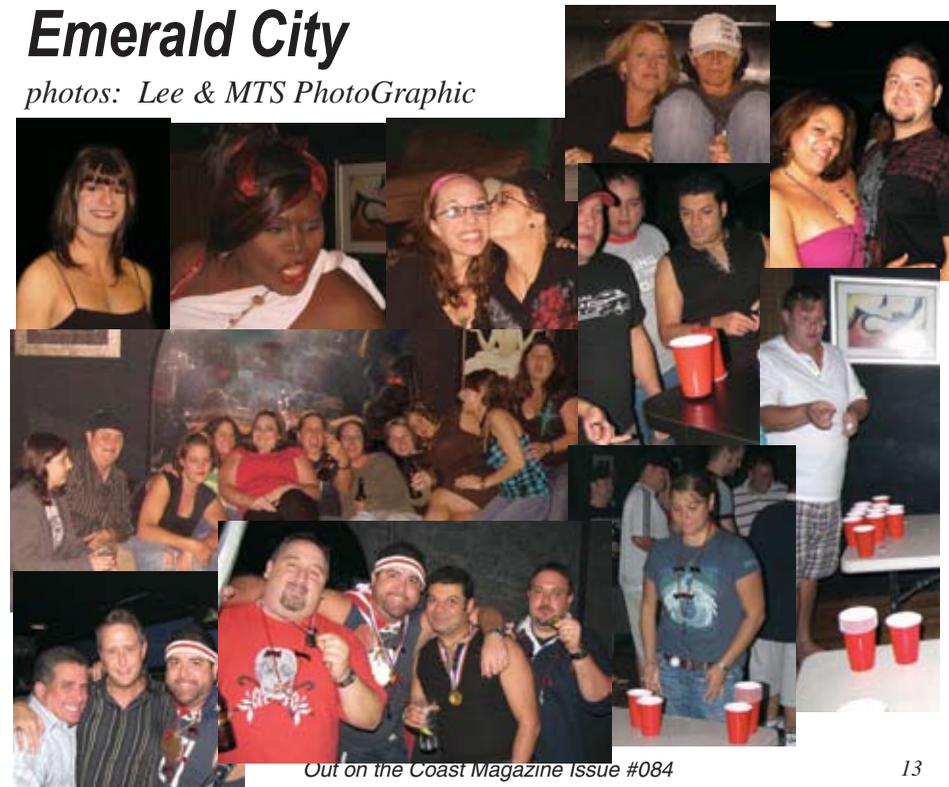
Thursdays - Tie Night

"Kill the keg" \$15.00 all u can drink
'till the keg runs dry



Emerald City

photos: Lee & MTS PhotoGraphic



Spiritually Speaking

As Rev. Susan Kliebenstein has left Family of God Community Church and was not able to submit a column for this month's issue, we decided to look back at our very first November column, written by the Rev. Dr. Jerry Seay for the November 2003 issue. Six years is a long time, yet the message, we think, holds true today with only the numbers in the first paragraph being dated: Matthew Shepherd was murdered 9 years ago and Stonewall was 40 years ago. [ed.]

Recently I was reminded that October was the fifth anniversary of the death of Matthew Shepherd in Wyoming. In my e-mails, I am constantly receiving obituaries of many of the leaders of the modern gay movement. Many of those who were present at the Stonewall Riots 34 years ago are no longer among us. Too many of our community have been lost to HIV/AIDS. Even in MCC, which as a denomination just celebrated its 35th anniversary, we have lost so many of our original leaders.

November starts with two very special days which are observed by some religious traditions. November 1 is the Feast of All Saints, when we celebrate our relationship with those who are physically no longer living

among us. The Book of Hebrews, in the Christian Scriptures, refers to us as being "surrounded by a great crowd of witnesses."

I like to believe that many of those who paved the way for the greater freedom we experience today in the glbt community are still with us. They provide not only guidance, inspiration, and encouragement for us, but I believe in their spirit forms they still take an active part in helping to effect change in our world.

Very similar to the Feast of All Saints is the Feast of All Souls on November 2. The Feast of All Souls reminds us to live our lives following the examples of those who went before us. We all have a similar destiny, so we should follow their example and do our part in this life.

When one adds to these special days the American holiday of Thanksgiving, November becomes a very special month. We start by remembering those who paved the way for us, then learning to follow their example. Towards the end of the month, we stop to say THANKYOU to our higher power, our leaders, our supportive family and friends, and to those special people in our lives. We do have a lot to be thankful for this year.

But stuck between our celebrations and our giving of thanks, we find a

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special day of responsibility. Election day comes on the first Tuesday of each November. This is our chance to make our voices heard. We have the opportunity to help bring changes to our world every November.

As we remember those who have helped make us who we are today, let's not forget our responsibility to not only continue working to improve our world, but also to help the future generations live in a better and more accepting nation. This is our calling – to continue the work our predecessors began. What a great privilege!

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.

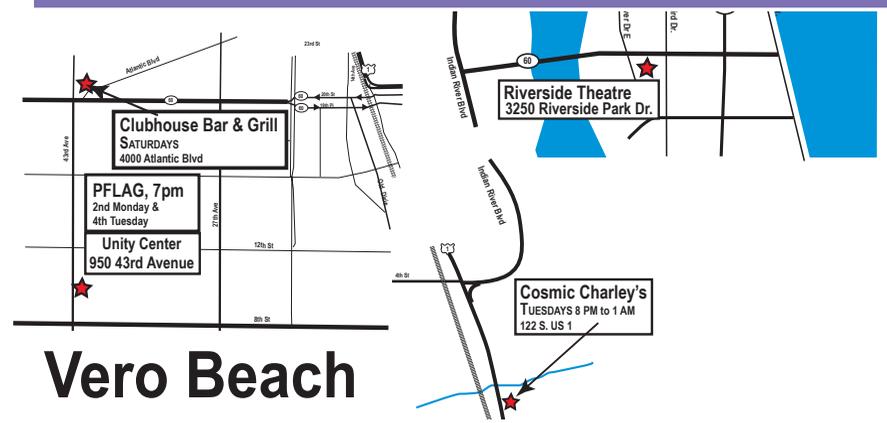
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Space Coast



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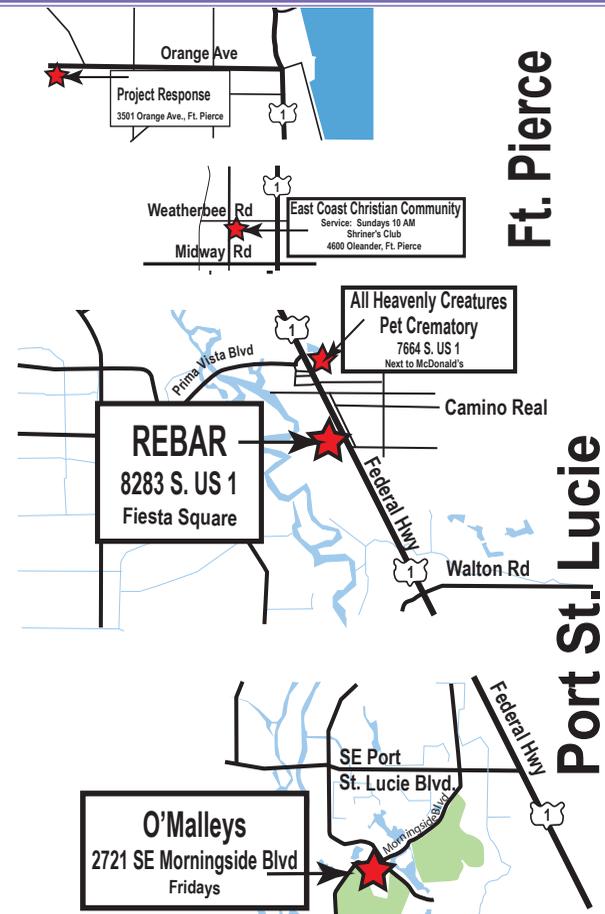
Treasure Coast



Palm Bay Melbourne



Ft. Pierce





Orlando Pride attracted a lot of Brevardians, this group stopped by The Living Room booth to show their pride.



The Living Room/Space Coast Pride had a booth at Orlando Pride.



When the rain showers hit, those with booths were under shelter. These folks had their huge gay flag as their umbrella.

know it's always a great time at REBAR.

A great time was had by all attending Emerald City's Beer Olympics. Drinking games galore and everyone having a great time. But it's not all just fun and games,

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the Guild's activities. They have Share a Pair canned food drive going on with The Ultra Lounge with a goal of 1000 pounds of canned goods by November 15 for distribution to Brevard Sharing Center and Project Response. The Guild will roll out of that and right into their Christmas project of adopting a nursing home for the indigent once again. If you're a business owner and not a member, we ask

why aren't you? If you say the Guild can't/won't do anything for you, you've got it wrong – it's what you and all the businesses together in the Guild can do to build our community. All of us working together strengthens each of us individually.

Individuals have been stepping forward hosting benefits for **Pride of the Treasure Coast**. The murder mystery dinner was a great success and the current one has already sold out. The next one will be in January and there will be one benefit event a month until **Pride of the Treasure Coast** on April 18, 2010 at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center. They don't have a web site, just a MySpace: <http://www.myspace.com/prideofthetreasurecoast> or you can always get information at **REBAR**.

Did you see the revised nightly line up in the **REBAR** ad? Wednesday's now oriented to those in the business and there's no longer a cover on Fridays – so come out and party, you



PFLAG Melbourne marched in the Orlando Parade with **PFLAG** contingents from all over central Florida.

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Cold Keg

photos: Lee



ALL OUT Fridays

Kelli Randell
November 6th
November 13th
November 27th
Myspace.com/Famousclubs

2-4-1 Wells & Drafts til 11pm
Show @ 11:30pm every Friday

O'Malley's

Spikey Van Dyke
November 20, 2009

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O'Malley's
photos: Lee & Famous Promotions



In My Words

a personal viewpoint

An Obligation

Recently while doing some research on the LGBT hero Cleve Jones, I came across an entry posted by an anonymous person regarding the low turn-out at a LGBT rally in California in support of equal access to Civil marriage. The writer complained that there was almost no attendance at this rally by “twinks” who (I paraphrase) would not be interested in attending anything that did not include drinking and dancing. He bemoaned the lack of interest these young people have in the struggles of the community.

This got me thinking: Is the younger generation of lesbians and gay men failing us... or are we failing them? Do we believe that interest in the LGBT community is fostered in them simply by being members of that community? Or do we have the responsibility of seeing to it that they have the knowledge base that would bring them to a point where they will care about their world and how it can influence and how it can be influenced by the world around us.

Their world: Is there really a separate LGBT world? There most definitely is if one defines “world” as a place where a group of people have a common goal to persevere toward equal status under the law. People of color had a community with a common goal and many roads to reach that goal. They are still working toward it, but

have come miles along that trail from where it began. The LGBT world has also come miles along their journey, some areas of the country have reached goals only dreamed about in other areas. Florida, California, Arizona, Arkansas, Utah and several others have put up barriers, usually at the instigation of misguided religious opinion, which will keep queer people down and in their place. Those of us who have same-sex attraction are the *only* minority in the United States who can be freely discriminated against through the passage of laws. Florida is one state that has enshrined such discrimination into their Constitution. Their latest amendment forbids civil marriage to same sex couples, and forbids the recognition of such marriages validly and legally performed in other States. We are forbidden to adopt children in Arkansas and, no surprise, in Florida and in other States. We *are* discriminated against. Our young people are maligned and go unprotected at school, and may be beaten on their way home. Hate crime legislation may be in place, but such motivation by the perpetrator is hard to prove.

Still, many of our young people are not motivated by this. Many no longer believe the political system can work for them. Many others believe that they deserve what they get. Many come from homes where they have been taught, through parent or



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church, that they are unworthy and must accept what they are handed. Many find no way out.

One of the weaknesses in our Gay/Lesbian Culture is that we don't really know our history, and we don't Mentor. Sure, we know about Stonewall, and we may know a few names such as Gertrude Stein and her lover, Alice B. Toklas. Do we know that such writers as Oscar Wilde, Walt Whitman, Virginia Woolf, Christopher Marlow, Emily Dickinson, Radclyffe Hall, James Baldwin, Marcel Proust, Tennessee Williams, Willa Cather, E.M. Forster and Rita Mae Brown were family to us? Among those who have blazed a political trail on our behalf were such people as Susan B. Anthony, Harvey Milk, Bayard Rustin, Harry Hay, Kate Millett, Barney Frank, Larry Kramer and Michelangelo Signorile, Heroes all, and family of whom we can be proud. The Arts bring many names of those who have attained high levels of perfection in their craft: Ethel Smyth, Rudolf Nureyev, Freddie Mercury, Ian McKellen, Marlene Dietrich, Rock Hudson, Liberace and countless others.

This is, of course, an incomplete list. Our heroes are legion. The names



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AIDS
is forever:
play safe!

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I've listed are well known to some, but their sexuality may not be. Their names and so many others should be known to all of us. Every one of them has made a significant contribution to who we are, and to the idea that GLBT people can be anything they want, and do what they want to do. They have achieved.

Mentoring is a gift we could give to the younger LGBT people who may be floundering. A Mentor is a trusted counselor. Each of us who has attained adulthood and are living successful day-to-day lives has a gift they can give to those who come behind us. There is still so much negativity directed toward our Community. It comes from the Conservative media, from Fundamentalist Churches, from vote-seeking politicians, from some schoolteachers, and from some of the talking heads on television "news" programs. Negativity is all around us. We can befriend younger people for no other reason than to tell them about our experiences. Tell them about our community's history. Let them know what road we have walked and what our battles were. Let them know that true equality is a goal worth pursuing and when necessary, worth fighting for. Let them know that we are here,

we have been here since the world began, and we will be here as long as humankind draws a breath. Let them know that *we are here, we are queer* and we are **not** going away.

David has a blog at <http://thedavidvbf.multiply.com/journal> and has generously allowed us to reprint it here. We will be printing blogs from David on a variety of topics. Please note that the opinions expressed in this column are those of the author.

We find that the lack of interest by the mature folks hereabouts more distressing than that of the youth. There is so much for youth to deal with: school, parents, dating, etc. While the grownups in the area have established lives and can find time for house parties, cruises, and all the other trappings of life, very few make time for their community – unless it's to travel someplace to be part of a big crowd (and attend parties). When it comes to local participation (aside from Pride Festivals and parties) there is almost none, plenty of bitching and criticism though. Local groups are starved for leadership, new blood, interested members. We are saddened to see the example shown the youth in this area. [ed.]

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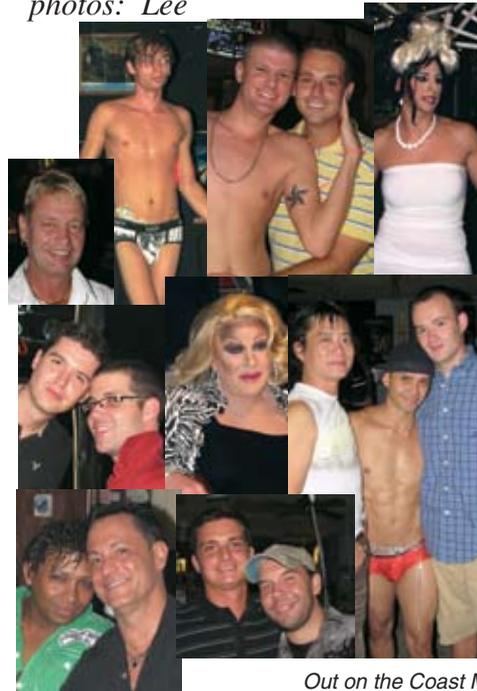
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IN THE NEWS

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WEST PALM BEACH—From November 20-22, advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) equality will join clergy, educators, mental health professionals and allies at the 2009 Anti-Heterosexism Conference in West Palm Beach, Florida. The conference offers a range of in-depth workshops and is open to everyone who seeks to challenge the harmful affects of heterosexism, reparative therapy, ex-gay ministries and other efforts to change people's sexual orientation.

"First off, it's important to be clear that the title of the conference is the Anti-Heterosexism Conference, not anti-heterosexual," says Jeff Lutes, Executive Director of Soulforce and one of the organizers of the conference. "Heterosexism is the widespread assumption that heterosexual relationships are somehow superior to same-sex relationships, which leads to all kinds of abuse and discrimination against LGBT people. We want to highlight where heterosexism seeps into the social, cultural, religious and political fabric of society, and how we can begin to unravel its damaging consequences."

Through a weekend-long series of workshops and keynote speakers, conference attendees will learn to challenge heterosexist attitudes and practices, speak out against the dangers of reparative therapy and other conversion efforts, and become strong advocates for LGBT equality.

Keynote speakers for the conference include Dr. Sylvia Rue, Interim Executive Director of the National Black Justice Coalition, Rev. Deborah L. Johnson of Inner Light Ministries, and Dr. Jack Drescher, Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Joining Soulforce as co-sponsors of the conference are Truth Wins Out, the National Black Justice Coalition, Beyond Ex-Gay, Box Turtle Bulletin and Equality Florida.

The Anti-Heterosexism Conference also serves as a counterweight to the anti-gay think tank, NARTH (National Association

for Research & Therapy of Homosexuality), which will be hosting its annual conference on the same weekend in West Palm Beach. For years NARTH has promoted reparative or "sexual orientation conversion" therapy, claiming that LGBT people can and should change their sexual orientation.

However, after a thorough review of the literature on conversion therapy, the American Psychological Association (APA) concluded that sexual orientation is unlikely to change through therapy and adopted a resolution in August 2009 calling on mental health professionals to avoid telling clients they can change from gay to straight through "therapeutic" efforts or other treatments. The resolution builds on an APA report from 1998, which warned that reparative therapy can lead patients to "depression, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior," because "therapist alignment with societal prejudices against homosexuality may reinforce self-hatred already experienced by the patient."

In November, individuals and organizations from across the country will come together for the Anti-Heterosexism Conference to work through the process of moving beyond the dangers of heterosexism to a more just and equitable environment for LGBT people. "It's time we named the problem," says Lutes, "and begin walking together through the solution."

For more information on the conference, visit: <http://www.soulforce.org/anti-heterosexism-conference>

Soulforce is a national civil rights and social justice organization dedicated to freedom for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from religious and political oppression through the practice of relentless nonviolent resistance. www.soulforce.org

RENO—A report on proudparenting.com noted that Nevada's domestic partner registration has opened with a quote from The Las Vegas Sun profiles Carline

and Jodie - and their three kids - one of nearly 700 families receiving Nevada's first domestic partnership certificates.

"...the oldest daughter, 17-year-old Brenna, is living with relatives in Boise, where she hopes to go to college. Nathan, 14, is a high school freshman who practices karate and is on the cross country team. Thirteen-year-old Dakota competes in pageants, is a cheerleader, dances and plays in the middle school orchestra. The other schoolchildren and the teachers know about Carline and Jodie — after all, they're field trip chaperones. It hasn't been a problem." Last spring Nevada's Legislature debated a domestic partner bill- introduced by state Sen. David Parks, D-Las Vegas.

The legislation will not overturn Nevada's same-sex marriage ban, but it will make Nevada the 10th state with either domestic partnerships or civil unions. It will be a legal document for families to show doctors and employers.

Nevada couples could start registering as domestic partners in advance of the new law that took effect in October.

The Nevada secretary of state's office planned to start taking applications on Monday, August 31.

Same- and opposite-sex couples who apply early could receive their certificates of domestic partnership on October 1.

That's the day the state law goes into effect extending rights similar to those held by married couples to cohabitating couples, whether gay or straight, who register.

There is a \$50 fee and the applications must be notarized.

WASHINGTON, DC—The Boston Globe reported that an article in the Pentagon's top scholarly journal calls in unambiguous terms for lifting the ban on gays serving openly in the armed forces, arguing that the military is essentially forcing thousands of gay men and women to lead dishonest lives in an organization that emphasizes integrity as a fundamental tenet.

The article in the Joint Force Quarterly, which is published for the chairman of the

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Joint Chiefs of Staff, was written by an Air Force colonel, who studied the issue for months concludes that having openly gay troops in the ranks will not hurt combat readiness.

While the views do not necessarily reflect those of Pentagon leaders, their appearance in a publication billed as the Joint Chiefs' "flagship" security studies journal signals that the top brass now welcomes a debate in the military over repealing the 1993 law.

Decisions on which articles to publish are made by the journal's editorial board, located at the defense university, the office of Admiral Mike Mullen, the Joint Chiefs chairman, reviewed the article before it was published.

"After a careful examination, there is no scientific evidence to support the claim that unit cohesion will be negatively affected if homosexuals serve openly," writes Colonel Om Prakash, who is now working in the office of Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates. "Based on this research, it is not time for the administration to reexamine the issue; rather

continued on page 26

continued from page 25

it is time for the administration to examine how to implement the repeal of the ban.”

In the 16 years the law has been in effect, more than 12,500 troops have been discharged because their sexual orientation was revealed, either by themselves or others.

Representative Patrick Murphy, a Pennsylvania Democrat and Iraq war veteran, is lobbying for a hearing – possibly later this year or early next year – on legislation that he has proposed that would repeal the ban. The bill has 176 cosponsors; there is no similar legislation pending in the Senate at this time.

Arguing that the law “has been costly both in personnel and treasure” – the cost of discharging service members and recruiting replacements, including those with language or other specialized skills – Prakash lays out a case in his article for why he believes the time has come for repeal.

Acknowledging that allowing gays to serve openly would cause some disruptions in the ranks – including harassment and even violence – he asserts that the disruptions would be manageable and that the military would quickly accept the change. Moreover, he argues that a more equitable policy would actually strengthen unit cohesion.

“No doubt there will be cases where units will become dysfunctional, just as there are today among heterosexual leaders,” Prakash writes. “Intervention will be required; such units must be dealt with just as they are today – in a prompt and constructive fashion.”

“The law also forces unusual personal compromises wholly inconsistent with a core military value - integrity,” he writes. “Several homosexuals interviewed were in tears as they described the enormous personal compromise in integrity they had been making, and the pain felt in serving in an organization they wholly believed in, yet that did not accept them.”

He continues: “In an attempt to allow

homosexual service members to serve quietly, a law was created that forces a compromise in integrity, conflicts with the American creed of ‘equality for all,’ places commanders in difficult moral dilemmas, and is ultimately more damaging to the unit cohesion its stated purpose is to preserve.”

Prakash cites the examples of other militaries - including in Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom, and Canada - that allow gays to serve openly. “There was no mass exodus of heterosexuals, and there was no mass ‘coming out’ of homosexuals,” he said.

Prakash also points to recent examples of gay soldiers - including battlefield leaders such as a Marine Corps captain - whose sexual orientation has been known by others in their units, to no discernible effect.

The article is likely to be applauded by gay rights groups that have been lobbying the Obama administration to take action to overturn the ban. But it is also likely to embolden supporters of the current law such as Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, a Washington think tank.

She believes that allowing gays to serve openly in all ranks and units - as the Murphy bill stipulates - would severely damage unit cohesion. “It is tantamount to saying that men should share the same living spaces with women,” she said. “Society may have changed but the need for good order and discipline has not changed.”

Donnelly also contends that the experiences of foreign militaries should not be a guide for the US armed forces, saying that some of them have conscript armies and do not allow gays to serve in elite combat units.

“These are not role models for the United States,” she said. “Congress is being asked to impose a risky military social experiment that is duplicated nowhere in the world.”

NEW YORK—The New York Times ran an article on the high price of being a gay couple, which explored the dollar penalty of being a committed gay couple without the benefit of legal marriage.

Based on income and cost averages calculated assuming a same-sex couple who is college-educated, 30 to 40 years old

and raising children under the age of 18. Income was assumed to be \$140,000, the average income for a couple in New York, California and Florida – states the article cited as estimated to have the largest gay populations.

Needless to say there were a large number of variables considered including disparity of incomes (where one wage earner makes significantly more than the other), health care coverage by employers including domestic partner or not, costs of moving to a state where same-sex second-parent adoptions are legal, social security, pensions, taxes, inheritance and financial planning.

Where there was a large disparity between incomes, the “cost of being gay” came to nearly a half-million dollars. However with both earning the same amount if fell to just over \$40,000 (about a fifth of the difference was due to the “marriage penalty” on income taxes).

LISBON, PORTUGAL— pinknews.co.uk reported that the re-elected Portuguese prime minister has promised to allow gay marriage.

Gay couples in Portugal are waiting to see whether their re-elected prime minister will follow through with his campaign promise for gay marriage.

José Sócrates and his Socialist Party government were returned to power last weekend but without a parliamentary majority. However, left wing parties occupy a majority of the seats, with all them agreeing with gay marriage.

Portugal, with a large Roman Catholic population, has seen all previous efforts to instigate same-sex marriage hit by heavy resistance from the country’s religious groups and conservative politicians.

This year, a lesbian couple tried to challenge the gay marriage ban as unconstitutional but in July, the Portuguese constitutional court upheld the ban on same-sex marriage.

Sunday’s voting also saw an openly gay politician elected in Portugal for the first time: Miguel Vale de Almeida, an independent MP for the Socialist Party.

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A detail we missed but heard was a great success was the start of Nocturnal with DJ Mechanizm on Wednesdays at **Cold Keg**. We also hear there's some changes underway but we're far out of the loop now so we'll pass on what we find out when we can confirm the details.

Gay Rights Tidbit: We find that European reports often give us insights in happenings in the US that we don't see elsewhere. For instance while most postings we've seen revolve around the courts rulings forcing the backers of anti-gay marriage initiatives, especially Protect Marriage, to reveal their financial backers, pinknews.co.uk reported that in a pre-trial hearing anti-gay groups were asked to prove how gay marriage threatens traditional unions.

In a challenge of the constitutionality of Proposition 8 by two unmarried couples, the presiding judge has asked anti-gay groups to prove how it affects heterosexual marriage.

Anti-gay group Protect Marriage, which led support for Prop 8, asked US District Chief Judge



Vaughn Walker to throw the case out of court but Walker has refused, meaning the case will go to trial in January. An attorney for Protect Marriage, Charles Cooper, argued that the ban was necessary to foster "naturally procreative relationships".

Then Walker asked: "What is the harm to the procreation purpose you outlined of allowing same-sex couples to get married?"

Cooper was forced to admit he did not know. And Walker referred to a recent wedding he had presided over, that of a women in her 80s and a man in her 90s, who he said he did not expect to procreate.

Cooper later cited a study from the Netherlands that found that straight couples were turning toward civil partnerships rather than traditional marriage. When Walker asked whether adverse effects had been found in children, Cooper was again forced to admit he did not know.

January's trial will determine whether gays should be provided with constitutional protections in the same way as racial minorities and whether the ban would protect marriage or comprise an act of hate.

Around 18,000 gay couples wed while gay marriage was legal. Earlier this year, the Supreme Court upheld the ban but ruled that those couples could continue to be legally married.



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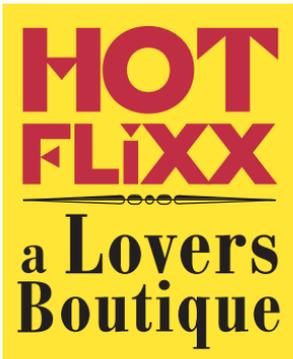
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