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ssue #071, October 2008

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Oct 18: Kelli Randell Velocity Xtreme & Faith Taylor



Oct 25: Velvet LeNore **Crystle Chambers & Tiffany McCray**

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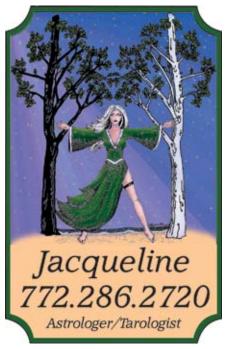
With Mercury in retrograde and Mars in Scorpio, we all begin to look for answers as "...inquiring minds, want to know." But don't be alarmed, "... the truth is out there..." and will be revealed with the Full Moon in Aries on the 14th and Mercury going direct on the 15th. Afterwards Venus will move from intense Scorpio into fun loving Sagittarius on the 18th, allowing us to relax and see the lighter side of the situation until the 28th when the full Moon in Scorpio intensifies our emotions again. Remember this month the sun is in Libra. The symbol for Libra is the scales. So, if you remember to keep things in balance this month, all will move with ease.

Aries March 23 - April 22 You'll start off the month in total confusion as your thoughts and actions will be out of sync. This is be-cause Mercury is opposing your sign and retrograde. However the Full Moon on the 15th, in your sign will bring you back into balance. You'll find it easier under this full moon to get rid of old stuff from the past that you've held onto for no reason. Take advantage of it!

Taurus *April 23 – May 22* Use your organizational skills, work smarter, not harder. The projects you started in May or June are at a turning point making it seem like your spinning your wheels. Step back, take a breath and examine the circumstances

from all angles then take appropriate positive actions. Do something out of your norm and go with the flow instead of butting heads. You'll find things will work out easier.

Gemini May 23 – June 22 Take this time to listen to what's being said and think before you speak. I know it's hard for you, but with this Mercury retrograde, you'll be misunderstood unless you do, especially by those you love. This is a great time to use your business savvy and to ask more questions instead of jumping to conclusions. You'll find if you do, others will understand your





perspective and appreciate your input.

Cancer June 23 – July 22 You're so busy trying to fix everything that you've overlooked peoples personal needs and preferences. Take a back seat, slow down, give when asked and leave it alone. Your focus should be on the things you can change, like yourself. Home improvements at this time will prove to be very beneficial.

Until Mercury goes direct on the 16th, you won't get the whole story especially from your friends and loved one and their habits that you've tolerated in the past, you will no longer. After the 16th, set your boundaries. You'll find that the ones who truly care will accommodate you and the others will drift away.

Leo July 23 – August 22 "Loose lips, sink ships" and no one is giving you any information what-so-ever! Don't expect to get the full story until Mercury goes direct, then you'll get the full picture of what has been hidden from you. After the 16th, habits that you've tolerated as well as relationships in question will come to light giving you the opportunity to re-evaluate yourself and your surroundings. Set boundaries, make your intentions known, you're true friends will standby you and the false ones will go.

Virgo August 23 – September 22 "Neither a lender nor a borrower be..." until Mercury goes direct on the 16th others will still need your skills to help them get back in the right direction. However, don't use your financial recourses for others or you'll find yourself spending more than you should. Instead, indulge yourself. It'll be more productive.

Libra September 23 – October 22 Happy Solar Return! Now is the time for you to roll up your sleeves, get down to business and don't be subtle about it! You're craving a life change, however make changes in your day to day routine as not to upset your balance and distance your friends. When you make changes for you, others will change without your input. It's the little thing's that make the greatest impression or impact.

Scorpio October 23 – November 22 Knock Knock! The moment you've been waiting for is at your door! With both Venus and Mars conjunct in your sign, the opportunity has arrived giving you the chance to make

changes both in your love life as well as career. Look forward and don't look back. It'll only slow you down and make this transition painful.

Sagittarius November 23 – December 22 When Venus goes into your sign on the 18th, you'll start a 3 week cycle of drawing the attention and love from those around you. Use this time to clear up any misunderstandings or apprehensions you have with those around you. Also take some time to do something you really love to do but haven't gotten around to doing it. I guarantee you'll find great joy from it.

Capricorn *December 23 – January 22* Now Hear This! I say once again, change your actions and others will change theirs. You're still in the same square with most of the personal planets from last month, which means you're going through a major change, especially in your day to day actions. Look to the future. Next month will be easier.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 This month proves that details do matter. You're normal pattern will not work now. If you don't have an answer, wait, it will reveal itself. Double check everything and don't act on your first impulse or you'll find yourself chasing your tail.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 Now is the time for you to make time for yourself, but make sure you keep things in balance. The day-to-day challenges may be overwhelming and second-guessing will only make matters worst. Trust yourself and your intuitiveness and things will flow smoother. Indulge in the arts and music, there you'll find peace of mind and balance in your outward and inward life or you'll find yourself on a roller coaster ride. **▼**

For those who want to know: With both the key word for Libra and an opposition being balance, I thought I'd tell you what an opposition is. It's when 2 planets are 180 degrees apart from each other. Right now we have Saturn and Uranus opposing each other. How this is affecting us is all must come to a balance with our physical and spiritual side. So, make sure that you're using both in every situation and it'll be to your benefit.

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







Well, we have some more elbow room this month so we can start with **REBAR Idol**. Congratulations to Reggie B. Coxworthy on his win. The competition was fearsome and I'm glad I wasn't a judge! It was a packed night at **REBAR** so if you missed it you really missed a great time! On Mercedes' birthday Velvet pulled together another great show to benefit **Pride of the Treasure Coast** raising about \$500 at **Girlapalooza**. **REBAR** has designated the last Sunday of each month as a benefit for **Pride of the Treasure Coast** so they can get the dollars

together for a bigger and better event in April. If you want to be involved with this great event talk to Jim, Jerry, Danny or **Kelli Randell**. The more you get involved, the better.

The Living Room of Brevard is getting Space Coast Pride 09 organized. The committee has many more people this year so we can look forward to a bigger and better event. To start off they're holding a design contest for a logo for this year's event to be used on the front of

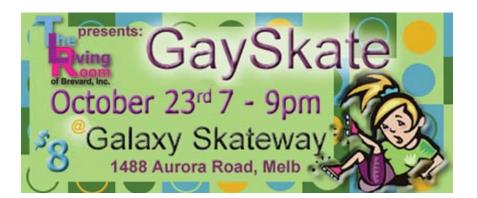


There was a smaller turn out but just as much fun at The Living Room's bowling outing. Another fun community event!

the t-shirt and for promotional posters. The contest starts October 1 and the winner will be announced at an event in February. To participate email info@ spacecoastpride.org or go to www.spacecoastpride.org and fill out the contact form saying you want to be in the logo design contest. **The Living Room** had Gay Skate rained out in August, but has rescheduled it for October 23, so oil up your skates and turn out for a gay old time at Galaxy Skateway in Melbourne. Also coming up is their anniversary dinner. This year the formal \$100 a plate event will be held at Yellow Dog on the Indian River in Palm Bay on November 16. Once again it will feature a silent auction and will be a very nice dress-up event, quite a difference from anything else in our community. Contact secretary@ tlrbrevard.org for tickets or go to www.tlrbrevard.org and look fill out the contact form there.

At the Cold Keg, there's a new face behind the bar: Janice, their first female

continued on page 15





REABR Idol finals was a fantastic night with outstanding competition. The top two were only 1 point apart! Hats off to Jim, Jerry, Velvet and the Judges.

Spiritually Speaking

Circles, Squares, and Triangles

What shape are you? Whatever shape you are, you were created that way for a specific purpose. God formed every creature on this planet with a special area of expertise. Some animals run, some hop, some swim, some burrow, some slither, and some fly. Each has a particular role to play, based on the way they were shaped by God.

The same is true of humans. Each of us was uniquely designed, or "shaped", to do certain things. Before architects design a new building, they first ask what is the purpose of the building and how will it be used? The intended function of the building determines the form and shape of the building.

Before God created us, God decided what role we were to play on earth. You are the way you are because you were made for a specific purpose. The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the people at Ephesus, wrote, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works." Our English word "poem" comes from the Greek word translated "workmanship." You are God's handcrafted work of art.

You are not an assembly-line product, mass-produced without thought. You are a custom-designed, one-of-a-kind, original masterpiece. God deliberately shaped and formed you in a unique way. God carefully mixed the DNA cocktail that created you.

The Psalmist wrote: "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous." God doesn't make junk.

Nothing that happens in your life is insignificant. God uses all of it to mold you and shape you for your ministry to others. God never wastes anything. God would not give you abilities, interests, talents, gifts, personality, and life experiences unless God intended to use them to help make you who you are. You are wonderfully complex, as David said. You are a combination of many different factors. God always gives us the capabilities to do what God asks us to do and to be who God wants us to be.

God loves variety and wants us to be special. No single gift or ability is given to everyone. Also, no one individual receives all of God's gifts. If you had them all, you would have no need of anyone else, and that would defeat one of God's purposes – to teach us to love and depend on each other.

Your gifts were not given for your own benefit but for the benefit of others, just as the gifts given to others are for your benefit. God planned it this way so that we would need each other. When we use our gifts together, we all benefit. If someone doesn't use their gifts, they get cheated.

The Bible uses the term "heart" to describe the bundle of desires, hopes, interests, ambitions, dreams, and affections you have. Your heart represents the source of all your motivations – what you love to do and what you care about most.

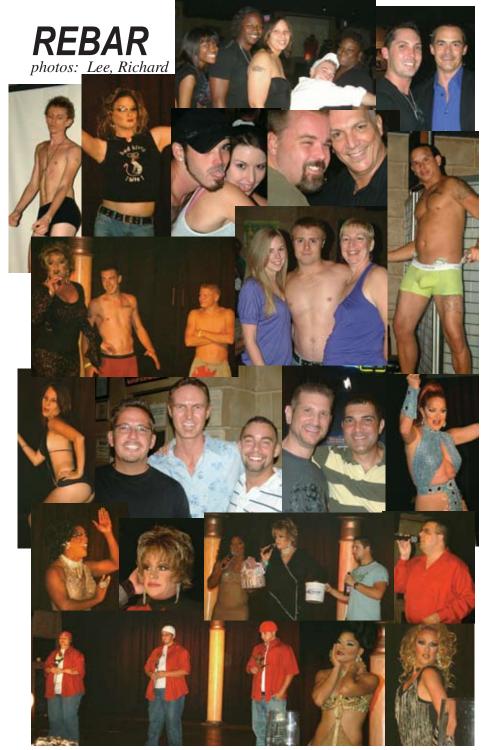
Proverbs 27:19 – As a face is reflected in water, so the heart reflects the person.

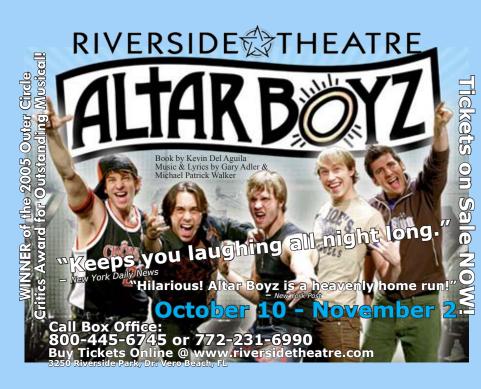
Your heart reveals the real you – what and who you truly are, not what others think you are. You heart determines why you say the things you do, why you feel the way you do, and why you act the way you do. ▼

The Rev. Dr. Jerry L. Seay is a former pastor in the Assemblies of God. He has been a pastor in the Metropolitan Community Churches since 1989. He and his lifepartner of thirteen years, Mike Lufriu, moved to Brevard County to start the East Coast Metropolitan Community Church. East Coast MCC 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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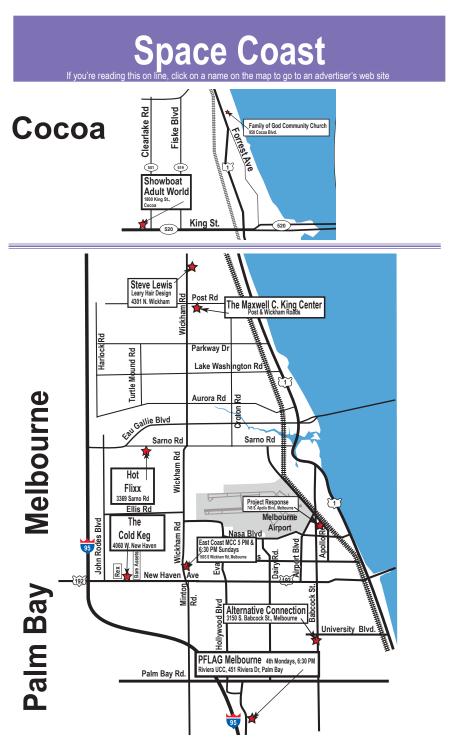




bartender, is serving up libations for your pleasure. She's another friendly, smiling face on the **Cold Keg** staff, so stop in any weekend and say hi (and buy a drink, and don't forget to tip!). We were really excited when we heard **Studs Are In** is going to be at the **Cold Keg** on October 11 (we know studs are in at the **Keg** but we didn't realize it needed announcing). Turns out **Studs Are In** is a pride shop out of Ocala that will be there to ply their wares, making the night with Tiffany McCray and strippers, Stephanie and Eli, extra special. Stop in for a great show and say hi to Angel.

East Coast MCC will be changing their name soon, as they have disassociated with the Metropolitan Community Church. Their services remain the same and their good work will continue as a community church. Stop in at any of their services (see their listing in our directory) and get to know this wonderful group of faithful people.

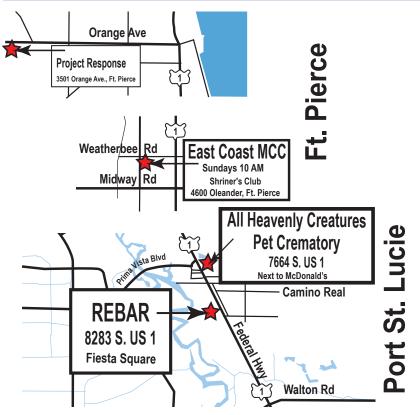
Up in Cocoa, Family of God Community Church has been affected by the economic downturn just like everyone else and has closed their family room for now. Their continuing group and social activities will be held in the chapel including their \$10 a plate lasagna dinner on October 18. If you want a ticket, just call their office at 321-632-3767 – the proceeds will go toward their 10th anniversary celebration. The theme of their anniversary is "Falling into God" 10 years of Grace. 1999- 2009 Check their web site, www.familyofgodbrevard.org,



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In My Words a personal viewpoint

by Lexi Wright

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Full text of proposed Amendment 2 to the Florida Constitution: "Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

I have never been a big fan of bumper stickers, but this one really fits our situation in Florida right now: "If you are not outraged, you are not paying attention." No kidding. I am outraged and I am telling everyone I know. In this great state, Gays and Lesbians are *already* **not allowed to marry**, in addition to not being allowed to adopt...I would have thought that would be enough discrimination for one state, even one as big as Florida.

I thought that if I, and all of the other people in the GLBT community, tell everyone we know...family, friends, co-workers...then we should easily defeat this Amendment which is an attempt to write discrimination into our State Constitution. However, according to the latest Mason-Dixon poll on August 29th, 57% of Floridians support passage of Amendment 2!

Once again, I am outraged. This tells me that we are not stepping up and making our voices heard. My challenge to you is to tell everyone you can. If this amendment passes, not only will my partner and I likely have to relocate to another state (where we will be recognized as a legal couple), but it will rob senior citizens of their basic rights while sending a clear message to the entire state that discrimination is okay, even condoned.

If you think we had too many hate crimes over the past 12 months, just wait until you see the ripple effect this amendment will have. Once it passes here, "Florida 4 Marriage," the group responsible for placing it on the ballot, will go after abortion rights and the divorce laws. The amendment will be pushed in other states, by similar organizations, who have learned how to manipulate the amendment for passing by using confusing wording and campaigning at area churches.

Florida 4 Marriage says that the amendment does only one thing-protect marriage. I don't really understand how allowing gay marriage (or any other legal union) threatens marriage between one man and one woman. I can understand that they feel the need to protect those marriages, since they currently have a failure rate of between 41-73%, depending upon whether it is your first, second, or third marriage.

The group says that the amendment will not take away any existing rights or benefits from anyone. Tell that to the residents of the state of Michigan, where an amendment was placed on their constitution in 2004 and where their Supreme Court just ruled that amendment means that city and county agencies may no longer offer domestic partnership benefits.

Florida 4 Marriage claims that the Amendment will "protect children," claiming the legislation is necessary to keep educators from teaching that gay marriage is equal to "natural marriage." Once again, this screams that discrimination is okay and condones

the actions of individuals like 14-year-old Brandon McInerney, who shot and killed his classmate, Lawrence King, for being gay.

The group claims that it is necessary to write discrimination into the Florida State Constitution because it "...gives children the best chance for both a mom and a dad." They are basically saying that when gay people are banned from marrying in Florida, they will see the error of their ways and become heterosexual, or that people like myself will end a gay relationship in favor of a "legal" relationship.

As I said earlier, we are already not allowed the same benefits of marriage that heterosexuals are...that has not stopped us from living our lives and taking care of our families. I am certainly not going to leave my partner because the State of Florida adds an amendment to their constitution. I might leave Florida, but I will not leave my partner.

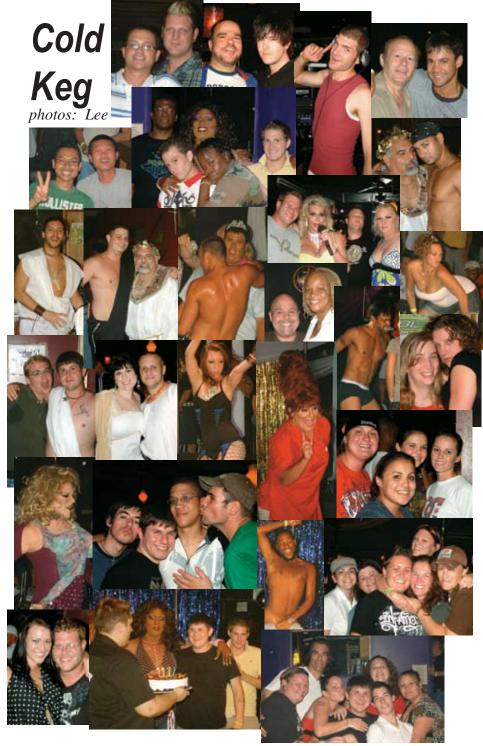
I know we can defeat this amendment and protect our families from further inequity. We vote! The 2004 Gay and Lesbian Consumer Online Census showed that 88% of the adult GLBT population is registered to vote, while only 66% of the general population is registered. The census also indicated that 80% of the GLBT community regularly cast ballots – a full 20% higher than the general population.

Here's the problem with those numbers: the GLBT population only accounts for, on average, about 8-10% of the total population in Florida. Again, this means that you have to tell everyone you know. No need for a snazzy sales pitch or a long, drawn-out political debate. I usually tell people that I don't care WHO they vote for (for President) as long as they vote *NO on 2*.

For further resources, please visit: www.SayNo2.com and www.FairnessForAllFamilies.org

Need additional income? Promoting OUT COAST understanding magazine equal rights and diversity through of Vero Beach support groups, We are looking for account community activities and executives in St. Lucie, scholarships. **Indian River & Brevard** Everyone is welcome! Counties. Meetings 7pm: Spend a few hours a week 2nd Monday and 4th Tuesday selling ads to supplement your income. every month UU Fellowship, 1590 27th Ave **Retired and students with** www.VeroBeachPFLAG.org sales experience welcome. PO Box 650533 Vero Beach, FL 32965-0533 Call Lee at 772-913-3008 772-778-9835

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for the various events that will be scheduled throughout the year to celebrate this chapter of faith life at Family of God.

Gay Rights Tidbit: The elections are coming up in a few short weeks and it is very, very, very important that each of us go out and talk to our friends and neighbors about Amendment 2. All the intellectual arguments that various organizations can present will change very few minds; it is person-to-person interaction that makes the difference.

As we attend various functions where politicians are present we have taken to asking Republicans "Why do you hate me?" In the vast majority of the situations the individual is genuinely hurt at the thought that a complete stranger thinks they hate them. Now you have to be brave and tell them you're gay (it's much easier than you think when the person you're talking to is off balance). Very few will turn away, most reply that they don't hate me, that they have gay friends, that they have nothing against gays. Then we ask them why their party spent \$300,000 to finance Amendment 2.

Suddenly they have to defend the indefensible, they have to rationalize why their party would single out one part of law abiding, tax paying American citizens to legislate against. They stutter. They stammer. They hem and haw.

At this point some will fall back to the tired religious argument and when we $_{\it continued \ on \ page \ 30}$

IN THE NEWS

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

TEQUESTA—In concluding collective bargaining with its three unions, the Village of Tequesta has expanded the definition of "immediate family" to include employees' domestic partners.

The new definition is included in the contracts between the Village and the Professional Fire Fighters/Paramedics of Palm Beach County, the Communications Workers of America, and the Palm Beach County Police Benevolent Association. The three contracts are in effect through September 30, 2010.

"Once again, the Village of Tequesta has taken steps to ensure that all Village employees are treated equally," said Rand Hoch, President of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council.

The Council, a non-profit GLBT rights organization, first began working with the Village on employment issues in 2007.

Last year, Tequesta became one of the first municipalities in Florida to prohibit discrimination based on "gender identity or expression."

ANCHORAGE— According to a September 9th article in the Huffington Post, Gov. Sarah Palin's church is promoting a conference that promises to convert gays into heterosexuals through the power of prayer.

"You'll be encouraged by the power of God's love and His desire to transform the lives of those impacted by homosexuality," according to the insert in the bulletin of the Wasilla Bible Church, where Palin has prayed for about six years.

Palin's conservative Christian views have energized that part of the GOP electorate, which was lukewarm to John McCain's candidacy before he named her as his vice presidential choice. She is staunchly anti-abortion, opposing exceptions for rape and incest, and opposes gay marriage and spousal rights for gay couples. Focus on the Family, a national Christian fundamentalist organization, is conducting the "Love Won Out" Conference in Anchorage, about 30 miles from Wasilla.

Palin, campaigning with McCain in the Midwest on Friday, has not publicly expressed a view on the so-called "pray away the gay" movement.

Gay activists in Alaska said Palin has not worked actively against their interests, but early in her administration she supported a bill to overrule a court decision to block state benefits for gay partners of public employees.

Palin reversed her position and vetoed the bill after the state attorney general said it was unconstitutional. [like she reversed re position on "The Bridge to Nowhere" after the public outcry against it -ed]

"I think gay Republicans are going to run away" if Palin supports efforts like the prayers to convert gays, said Wayne Besen, founder of the New York-based Truth Wins Out, a gay rights advocacy group. Besen called on Palin to publicly express her views now that she's a vice presidential nominee.

"People are looking at Sarah Palin as someone who might feasibly be in the White House," he said.

ANNAPOLIS—Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) applauded a Maryland Appeal Court ruling today which dismissed attempts to roll back landmark protections for transgender residents in Montgomery County, Maryland, by way of a November ballot initiative. The court's unanimous ruling ends a campaign by anti-transgender activists to strip the county's civil rights law of protections based on gender identity. The law was amended in November 2007 and, because of this ruling, will now be enacted to include the transgender community.

"The anti-transgender campaign in

Montgomery County was based on bigotry and fueled by misinformation," said Jody M. Huckaby, executive director of PFLAG. "It was being forced onto the ballot with no regard for state law or the fundamental rights of our transgender neighbors and allies. Today's ruling sends a clear message that opponents of equality are not above the law, and our transgender loved ones are not below it. Montgomery County's civil rights law offers important protections to transgender and gender-variant people. We join our allies in Maryland and the transgender community in celebrating its long over-due enactment."

Lambda Legal, together with counsel from Equality Maryland, represented state residents who fought efforts by the far-right Citizens for Responsible Government (CRG) to place the measure on the fall ballot. The groups argued that CRG did not collect the required number of valid signatures to qualify for placement on the ballot, and that a lower court acted improperly when ruling that, despite the lack of signatures, the initiative could move forward. In today's ruling, the court sided with Lambda Legal and Equality Maryland, shutting down any future attempts for a vote on the issue. The National Gav & Lesbian Task Force. The National Center for Transgender Equality and Basic Rights Montgomery also played critical roles in defeating the initiative.

"Today's ruling is a significant victory for every American who believes that every member of our family is worthy of dignity and respect," Huckaby said.

PFLAG also opposes similar efforts to block transgender rights laws in Gainesville, Florida and Hamtramck, Michigan. For more information on PFLAG's work with, and on behalf of, the transgender community, visit www.pflag.org.

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

WASHINGTON, DC—From a *Washington Blade* interview with Barak Obama:

Blade: Important gay rights legislation unrelated to marriage has been stalled in Congress for quite some time. The gay community has high expectations for an Obama administration. What are reasonable expectations for a first-term Obama administration: How aggressively would you push for Congress to pass ENDA, the hate crimes bill, repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," and other gay-related bills in your first year in office, and would you mention those bills in your State of the Union address?

Obama: These bills are all important priorities for me. Senator Biden and I have long committed ourselves to supporting fundamental civil rights for all. In addition to the issues you mentioned, I also support full repeal of DOMA to provide equal federal rights and benefits to LGBT couples. America must live up to our founding principle of equality for all, and it's wrong to have millions of LGBT Americans living as second class citizens in this nation.

I support these efforts because I know that equality is a moral imperative. Back when I was in the Illinois Senate, I co sponsored a fully inclusive bill that prohibited discrimination on the basis of both sexual orientation and gender identity, extending protection to the workplace, housing, and places of public accommodation. The nondiscrimination bill has become law in Illinois. If I am honored to serve as your President, I will continue to do what I've done throughout my career and in this campaign: speak out on behalf of the cause for equal justice and opportunity for LGBT Americans.

FT LAUDERDALE—In an article in *The Washington Blade*, Key changes Gospel singer Ray Boltz shared his coming out journey.

Boltz, 55, is well known in the Contemporary Christian Music genre with some 4.5 million recordings sold. However he has never broken out to wider fame and never really tried.

Following a visit to the mostly gay Jesus Metropolitan Community Church in Indianapolis, while there visiting his family, Boltz gave the pastor a copy of his 1997 holiday recording, "A Christmas Album."

"I didn't make a big deal of it," Boltz said during a 90-minute phone interview from his home in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. "But I was trembling. I'd kind of had two identities since I moved to Florida where I kind of had this other life and I'd never merged the two lives. This was the first time I was taking my old life as Ray Boltz, the gospel singer, and merging it with my new life. Emotionally it was kind of a big deal to think about that."

Boltz was married for 33 years and has four grown children. Family life and going through the motions of being straight had grown so wearying to Boltz, he was in a serious depression, had been in therapy for years, was on Prozac and other anti-depressants and had been, for a time, suicidal.

Finally in 2004, Boltz came out to his family.

"I thought I hid it really well," he says. "I didn't know people could see what I was going through, the darkness and the struggle. After I came out to my family, one of my daughters said she was afraid to walk in my bedroom because she was afraid she'd find me — that I'd done something to myself. And I didn't even know they'd picked it up."

"It's hard to say I came out because I didn't have all the answers. I just admitted what I was struggling with and what I was feeling. It's hard to go, 'This is the point where I accepted my sexuality and who I was,' but I came out to them and shared with them what I'd been going through." He and Carol separated in the summer of 2005 and he moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. He only casually knew a few people there but thought it would be a good place to start a new, low-key life and get to know himself.

He and Carol Boltz remain close (their divorce was finalized early this year). She's become involved with the gay advocacy group Soulforce but declined, through Boltz, to be interviewed.

The name on the CD didn't register with MCC's Rev. Jeff Miner at first. And that was just fine with Ray Boltz.

Miner showed the CD to the music leaders at MCC Indianapolis who, recognizing Boltz's name, were dumbfounded that he'd been to their church. When they mentioned some of Boltz's hits to him, Miner made the connection.

Miner told Boltz if he was ever in the area again — Boltz makes regular trips back to the Midwest to visit family — that he was welcome to sing.

This started a chain reaction of events that led to this story. Boltz performed at Miner's church to an enthusiastic reception. Miner then introduced him to Rev. Cindi Love, executive director of the Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches, who'd just released a book called "Would Jesus Discriminate," a discussion of Christianity and homosexuality.

Love invited Boltz to join her at MCC Washington where he sang on May 25 and, even though it was not stated that Boltz is gay, the congregation connected with the songs.

"I didn't tell them I was gay but I still felt like





I was being authentic, that I could be who I was," Boltz says. "They all jumped up at the end of the song, clapping and all gave me hugs. It was pretty amazing."

Boltz is clear, though, about his reasons for coming out publicly.

"I really had no master plan here," he says. "I've just been trying to go with the idea that you can either live your life out of love or out of fear. I could just stay here in Florida and be pretty anonymous. I could go work at Wal-Mart or something where nobody knows who I am, but to me, that's kind of living in fear."

Though he's open to performing, Boltz says he doesn't plan to let this issue take over his life.

"I don't want to be a spokesperson, I don't want to be a poster boy for gay Christians, I don't want to be in a little box on TV with three other people in little boxes screaming about what the Bible says, I don't want to be some kind of teacher or theologian — I'm just an artist and I'm just going to sing about what I feel and write about what I feel and see where it goes."

WASHINGTON, DC—HRC has hit the million mark! They are up to 1,003,118 signatures on their Million for Marriage petition.

HOLLYWOOD—Decades ago, networks titled shows for the sponsors that paid the bills, among them "Kraft Music Hall," "Schlitz Playhouse of Stars," "Camel News Caravan" and "Colgate Comedy Hour." Now, a familiar apparel label is teaming up with a cable channel to lend its name to 30 weeks of "unbuttoned" programming. The Levi's 501 button-fly line of jeans sold by Levi Strauss & Company is joining with the Logo unit of MTV Networks, owned by Viacom, for a campaign called "Logo Unbuttoned." Promotions for the campaign are scheduled to begin on Tuesday on Logo, a network aimed at gav and lesbian viewers that since its introduction in June 2005 has signed sponsorship deals with other mainstream marketers like Orbitz, Stolichnaya and Subaru. The "Logo Unbuttoned" title echoes the phrase "Live Unbuttoned," which is the theme of a worldwide campaign for Levi's 501 that was introduced in July by a Levi Strauss agency, Bartle Bogle Hegarty. The budget for the campaign, which also includes promotions, events and social media, is estimated at more than \$1 million. Levi's 501 will be the sole sponsor of a program block that Logo plans to introduce on Oct. 12, "Saturday Nights Unbuttoned Presented by Levi's," which will run from 1 to 3 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

LAKE WORTH—By a vote of 3 to 2, and after more than a year of delays, the Board of Trustees of Palm Beach Community College finally voted to offer domestic partner health insurance to college employees.

Trustees William Berger, Wendy Link and David Tally voted in favor of the proposal. Chairperson Kenneth Kirby and former Chairperson Carolyn Williams both voted "no."

"Thanks to the persistence of President Dennis Gallon and Human Resources Director Ellen Grace, all employees of Palm Beach Community College will soon be able to purchase affordable health care for their families," said Rand Hoch, President of the Palm Beach County Human Rights Council.

The Council, which has been in the forefront of domestic partner benefits in Palm Beach County for the past twenty years, first asked PBCC to consider domestic partner benefits in 2005.

Last year, the Florida Community Colleges Risk Management Consortium also asked the college to offer domestic partner health insurance. The Consortium provides health insurance for PBCC and 21 other Florida community colleges.

While both Gallon and Grace have long advocated for domestic partner benefits, two trustees -- Carolyn Williams and Kenneth Kirby -- consistently opposed offering domestic partner health insurance to college employees.

"Trustees Williams and Kirby sought to impose their narrow personal opinions as to what constitutes a family on the college's faculty and staff," said Hoch. "Fortunately, Trustees Berger, Link and Tally understood what was in the best interests of Palm Beach Community College, and acted accordingly."

"Previously, each time the trustees were poised to provide equal access to family benefits, Trustees Williams and Kirby prevented that from happening," said Hoch. "Today, they finally ran out of ways to delay and deny."

SAN FRANCISCO—John Burnside, 90, surviving partner of Harry Hay, died on Sunday 14.

John's death came within weeks after diagnosis of a large, rapidly spreading, inoperable tumor deep within his brain. Most members of the Circle of Loving Companions, who had organized and provided financial and health support for Harry and John in their last years, were present at the time of his passing.

John was the inventor of the Teleidoscope and the Symmetricon, and was the partner of Harry Hay for 39 years.

Burnside met Harry Hay in 1962 at ONE Incorporated. He fell in love and the two became life partners. They formed a group in the early 1960s called the Circle of Loving Companions that promoted gay rights and gay love. In 1966 they were major planners of one of the first gay parades, a protest against exclusion of homosexuals from the military, held in Los Angeles. In 1967, they appeared as a gay couple on the Joe Pyne television show.

In the late 1970s, they founded, along with Don Kilhefner and Mitch Walker, the Radical Faeries.

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John had recently moved to 501 Ashbury in San Francisco, the flat of longtime Bay Area activist, Pride Parade Chairperson, and 2008 Grand Marshall Joey Cain. Roundthe-clock companionship, care, and support was provided.

LOS ANGELES—Brad Pitt has announced Wednesday that he's donating \$100,000 to fight California's Proposition 8, a November ballot initiative that would eliminate samesex couples' right to marry.

"Because no one has the right to deny another their life, even though they disagree with it, because everyone has the right to live the life they so desire if it doesn't harm another and because discrimination has no place in America, my vote will be for equality and against Proposition 8," the actor said in a statement.

Pitt's donation marks the largest thus far to the anti-Prop. 8 campaign by an A-list celebrity.

BRASILIA, Brazil—The AP reported that Brazil's president has come out in favor of same-sex unions.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said that in Brazil, "there are men living with men, and women living with women" who "build a good life together." But a proposed law that would give all same-sex couples rights equal to those enjoyed by married heterosexuals has been stalled in Brazil's Congress for more than a decade.

Silva said in an interview by the governmentrun TV Brasil that politicians who oppose same-sex unions and yet seek the votes of gay men and women during elections are "hypocrites."

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Family of God in Christ Church	
950 Cocoa Blvd (US 1), Ste. 104, Cocoa	
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AA Lambda AA	
Wednesdays & Saturdays, 7:30pm, Unity Church, 1745 Trimble Rd, Melbourne	Lambda.AA@earthlink.net
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The Cold Keg Nightclub	
4060 W. New Haven, Melbourne	
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PFLAG Melbourne	
Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Riviera United Church	
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Vero Beach (Indian River County)

AA The Sober Rainbow Thursdays, Unity Church, 950 43rd Ave, Vero Beach Eclectus.	TheSoberRainbow@aol.com
2045 13th Ave, Vero Beach, FL PFLAG Vero Beach	

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3250 Riverside Park Dr., Vero Beach, FL 32963	

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North Palm Beach

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501 Northlake Blvd, North Palm Beach	

SOUND OFF

on the forums at www.ootcmag.com. Discuss what's important to you on the only webspace devoted to just the Treasure and Space Coasts' GLBT community

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point out that we don't belong to their church and ask why their religious views should be forced on us they just turn away, but at least they had to think a bit. Most, however, will be at a loss and say something to the effect that they aren't *that* kind of Republican.

We then pounce: "Then you will vote against Amendment 2." A simple statement, no forcefulness, not a question at all. If they waiver we remind them that words don't mean much, it's actions that count and so far the Republican Party's actions have not been positive, or even neutral, towards GLBT Americans. It is up to them to vote their convictions.

This is approach is especially effective when addressing candidates for sheriff. Why would we vote for someone whose party persecutes us? Their party believes we should have our rights reduced: marriage in Florida, California and Arizona and adoption in several other states. How can we be sure that a sheriff from a party that holds us in less regard will fully protect us?

If you can't bring yourself to personally approach people, try it on your friends – some of them will be willing to talk to others. Make sure you go to www. FairnessForAllFamilies.org and educate yourself on the impact Amendment 2 will have on non-gay couples. Direct your friends there, too. We need everyone's help.

Even if you can't or won't do the above there is one thing you can do: skip a dinner out and take that money and give it to www.FairnessForAllFamilies.org. Better yet get with your friends and all of you skip a dinner out. One dinner out, that's all. A few dollars to defeat Amendment 2. You can do it, you can make a difference!

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



People keep telling Lee that his picture is never in the magazine, well here he is with the incomparable Amber Douglas. for those of you who look closely you'll notice another picture of me with a very friendly young man visiting Melbourne from LA, so that makes two in one issue!



Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you.

- Pericles, Greek statesman (430 BC)

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