

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

Covering Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts

Issue #062, January 2008

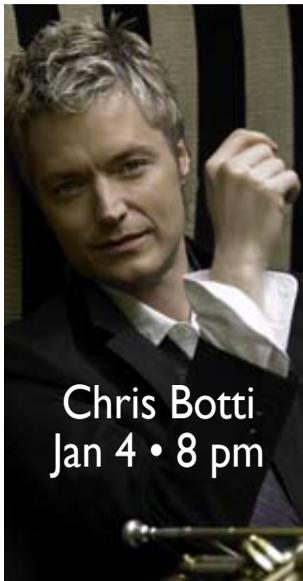




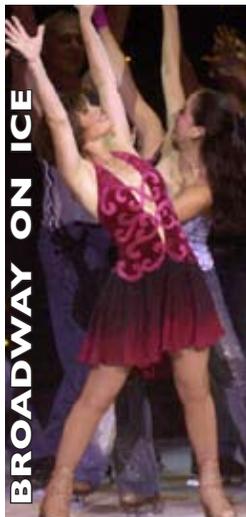
Great Shows Coming to The King Center



A musical explosion
Jan 3 • 8 pm



Chris Botti
Jan 4 • 8 pm

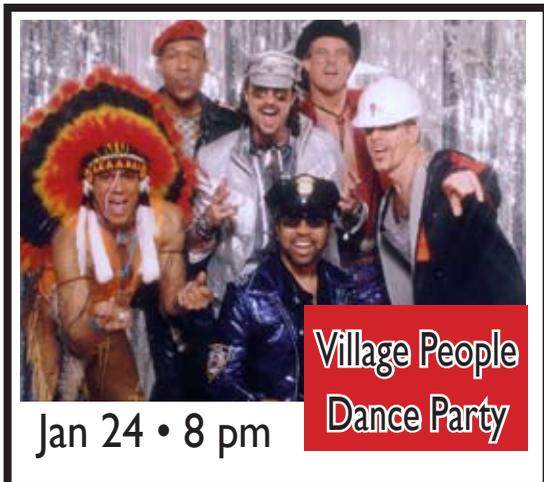


BROADWAY ON ICE

Jan 8 • 2 pm & 8 pm
Dorothy Hamill &
Franc D'Ambrosio



Jan 20 • 2:30 & 7:30 pm



Village People
Dance Party

Jan 24 • 8 pm

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Port Saint Lucie
Photo: LANZ

Issue #062
December 20, 2007
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REBAR

photos: Lee, Richard & Ashley



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REBAR

The Treasure Coast's
Music Video Bar

S
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Jan 5
Tori Holden with
Roseanne DeShanaro
Rebecca Glasscock



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Jan 12
Melissa Mason with
Spikey Dykey
Blue
Logan Jacobson



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Jan 19
Kelli Randell with
Faith
Champagne Bordeaux



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Jan 26
Velvet LeNore with
Deja Devonier
Latrice Royale



WEDNESDAYS SHOWTIME 11 PM GIRLAPALOOZA

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**FRIDAY SHOWS HAVE RETURNED! SHOWTIME 11:30
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HOROSCOPE by Jacqueline

Hang on because 2008 is a year of transformation. We start with Pluto going into Capricorn, which means that we all will have a physical and foundational change in our lives. The New Moon on the 8th in Capricorn starts the emotional transition. However, the Full moon on the 22nd in Leo, will allow us to see the new and creative future that can be. Venus going into Capricorn on the 24th effects what we love and allows us a chance to heal our hearts. It may seem overly dramatic, but know that the changes are going to be to our benefit. So, go with the flow and see where it takes you. You may even surprise yourself!

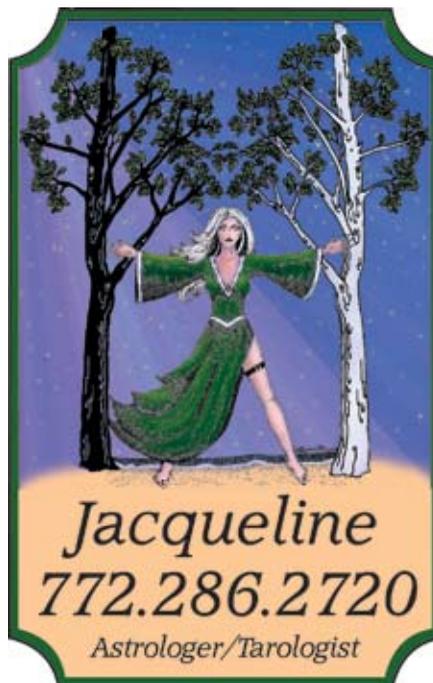
Aries March 23 - April 22 The New Year brings you an innate ability to use your natural primitive instincts to move gracefully through the obstacles in your way. Don't be hesitant, or second guess yourself. As long as you follow them, the end result will be what you want.

Taurus April 23 - May 22 This month brings the opportunity to build a major and permanent foundation for not only your home but also your dreams for the future. When looking for advice, look to the grounded and practical. Use this time wisely and don't put time limits on it. Rome

wasn't built in a day and neither can your plans for the future.

Gemini May 23 - June 22 Your decision-making is limiting you. This month you need to ask more questions of those with experience and get more information before making a decision. If you don't, when Mercury goes retrograde on the 28th, you'll have to redo the details you missed.

Cancer June 23 - July 22 You're learning to wait before you act. Slow and steady will win the race.





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Relax this month kick off your shoes and have some fun. Socialize with friends. Your actions to move forward with what you want aren't going to be productive. Wait until after Mars goes direct in the 30th, then you'll be able to move forward and get the results you've been striving for.

Leo July 23 - August 22 Lay the foundations now so that you can reap the benefits of your labors around May. Although you may experience many distractions with social opportunities, stay the course. Make sure you take the time to physically start the new direction you want to go for this year. If you don't, you'll have to overcome greater obstacles to obtain your desires.

Virgo August 23 - September 22 This year brings Saturn trining your sun. What this means is it's your time to start a new foundation for your life. You have the earth energy now to physically move towards what you want. All you have to do is follow your practical ideas.

Libra September 23 - October 22 2008 will bring new opportunities to take on new responsibilities, but you'll feel like you don't know what the right choices are. Relax, you know what is right. Relax, you know what is right. Make that known and allow the details to fall into place by themselves.

Scorpio October 23 - November 22 Don't overlook the details this month. With Mars still retrograde, you're still unable to get things going in the right direction. Take the time to double check everything. Make sure you have all the information and you'll see after the 28th, all will fall into place.

Sagittarius November 23 - December 22 With Venus in your sign, all will love you. Wherever you go, your radiant energy will be intoxicating and you'll be the hit of the party. Go out and enjoy the praise and attention. Bask in the limelight. This is not a time to stay in. If you do, you'll find all the problems in your life and not the resolution.

continued on page 8

continued from page 7

Capricorn December 23 – January 22 Jupiter has arrived, you're labors have be recognized and reimbursement is now upon you. Get your nose out of the books, your hands off the grind stone and throw away the blinders. Don't focus too much on the direction you're going. Look around and see the benefits that are abundant, especially in business.

Aquarius January 23 – February 22 Your extraordinary abilities to envision the future will be heightened between the new moon and the full moon. Use these natural talents for your benefit. Remember you're ahead of the pack, stay within those visions, others will eventually catch up. Initiate your plan and go forward; don't procrastinate while waiting for them.

Pisces February 23 – March 22 Start off the year on the good foot and nurture yourself. Take some time for reflection and solitude in is in order; a time to clear your

mind, body and spirit. You're intuition is heightened as well as your emotions. You're nurturing won't be coming from others, but through your own physical actions. So, pamper yourself and enjoy the beauty of your sign. ▼

For those who want to know: Jupiter going into Capricorn is a good time to explore the planet and what it brings us. Jupiter represents expansion and growth. It's all or nothing. It protects us and teaches us. Its element is fire and sign, Sagittarius. With Jupiter going into Capricorn, we are mixing fire and earth which allows Jupiter and its benefits to be used in a practical way. No matter what it swings the pendulum. So have fun with it and choose how the pendulum is going to swing.

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

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www.REBAR-PSL.com www.MySpace.com/REBARPSL

Tea Time

with Miss T

As we go to press before the meeting to decide the fate of **The Living Room** LGBT Community Center in Melbourne's physical space I thought I'd take this opportunity to show some pictures to give you an idea of what it looks like. Through generous donations **The Living Room** has seating, shelving, books, a reception desk, a library, rugs, tables and more. What it doesn't have include interior walls, a kitchen sink, or money to pay the rent and utilities. Hopefully that last item will be taken care of by those who attended the meeting on Monday, December 17. Be sure to check their web site at www.TLRbrevard.org to find out what happened.



(clockwise from top right) The entryway for **The Living Room**; the reception area with literature and donation box; the large meeting space; the library and sitting area.

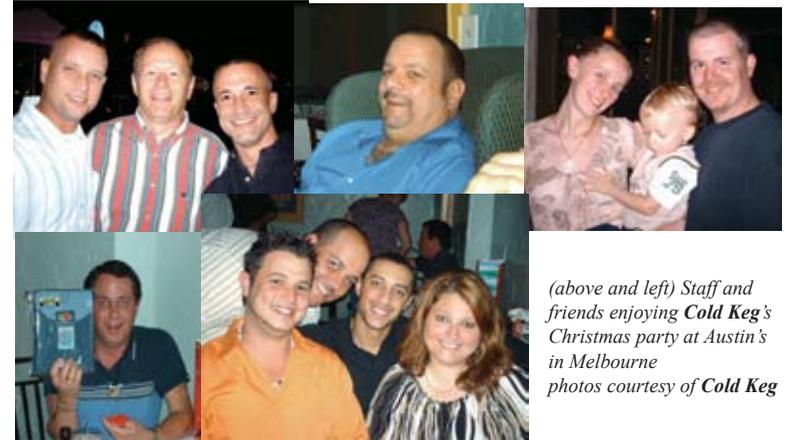
Down in St. Lucie and Martin Counties, athletic women should note that the second season of the Greater Palm Beaches Gumbo Limbo Womens Softball league ended November 18th, 2007. Next season will begin early Spring 2008. Anyone from the Greater Palm Beaches and Northern counties is encouraged to join. Spring season is the qualifying season for the Gay Softball World Series which will be held in Seattle Washington August 2008. For more information on how to join email: raynboleague@aol.com or visit our official web page at: <http://members.aol.com/raynboleague/> or call (561)-758-8082. I think it's cute how they refer to us as the "Northern counties" – kind of conjures up images of dog sleds and fur coats (to me at least, I grew up on north). I wonder if they consider Brevard the far north?

It's been the party season and this year, without Palm Beaches to cover, I had more time and made a few but due to some family health issues (mom's fine now, thank you for your concern)

I missed the Melbourne PFLAG and **REBAR** events, both the staff and the public parties. And I know I missed out! Wow, **REBAR** had an open bar for the public party! And it went on and on and... Note to falling down drunks: just fall down, don't rip the plumbing fixtures off the wall in the bathroom – that's bad form and creates a mess for everyone. If you fall down we can just step over you and you don't spoil the night for the staff and owners. And for another incredible **REBAR** party, check out their New Year's Eve event ad on page 9 and careful readers of their main ad will discover that Thursday is now karaoke night at **REBAR**.

I did have a chance to make a cameo at Moose's party up in Port St. John and I attended a beautiful event at Bill and Steve's incredible home in Cocoa. It's so nice to attend events where I don't have to do anything except enjoy myself – and in Cocoa I even had a driver so I could indulge in the holiday spirits! A million thank you to my gracious hosts.

And a special one to Sharon for inviting me to **Cold Keg's** staff party at Austin's. Great food,



(above and left) Staff and friends enjoying **Cold Keg's** Christmas party at Austin's in Melbourne photos courtesy of **Cold Keg**

wonderful company and another evening where I was off duty (thanks Joe, for providing some photos to share with my adoring public). **Cold Keg** will, of course, be going all out for New Years Eve with two shows, buffet, toast and two extra hours. Yes, somehow the prudes of Brevard missed the law that lets the good times go on until 4 am New Years morning! So party hearty and party late at **Cold Keg** on New Years Eve!

I also made it to the **Vero Beach PFLAG** holiday dinner, which was well attended in spite of a last minute change of venue. As always the gracious folks at UU made room for **VB PFLAG**. The highlight of the night were tables of presents: one full of wrapped presents for the families that individuals had adopted and unwrapped ones for teenagers through Youth Guidance. **VB**



(above left) **PFLAG Vero Beach** members enjoy their holiday pot luck dinner (above right) some of the toys for teens

PFLAG does this every year, among many other good works, and the charities have come to rely on them for support.

continued on page 12

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continued from page 12

Upcoming parties include A Private Affair to benefit Treasure Coast Pride on January 19th at a private home in PSL. The \$50 cover includes open bar, appetizers and a concert with Josh Zuckerman. Attendance is limited to 100 people. Call 772-340-2957 for tickets.

People Care Center in Vero is holding a fundraiser on Saturday, February 16 at the Courthouse Executive Center in Vero. **A Night of Love** is the perfect Valentine's gift for your significant other or for yourself since the love you're expressing extends to individuals and families impacted by AIDS in Indian River County. **People Care Center** is the only agency serving this population in IRC, so what they do is very important. Hats off to Lourdes, Bonnie and all the rest for caring enough to create this organization.

Now that *In Out Past* is gone we brought back *In My Words* as a public forum: write your story, tell us about what you think, what you've experienced, what you've created (yes, photo essays will be considered). Here's your chance to get published. Sorry, you won't get dollars but you will get to show all your friends, and if you're in a progressive school you might get credit for it there and if you're from an accepting family you can even show your mom! Just send your submission to editor@oocmag.com (if you have a photo submission, please just email first so we can contact you about resolution and format requirements and FTP instructions for sending the files). **DO IT NOW!** We need to fill that space for the February issue, don't cha know.

I know our discerning readers have spotted our new advertiser: **Crystal Tides** down in Stuart. Check out their ad on page 31 and stop by for the perfect last minute gift or insight into what that gift should be or just stop in and say hi to Jacqui, you never know what you might find you do need at **Crystal Tides**.

If you live in Brevard and need a room, there's one available in a beautiful home in a gated community in Viera, see the ad on page 31. Gee, only two new ads this month, well we're working one more for next month so we can keep on bringing you this wonderful rag, and maybe Lee can afford a new pair of shoes ;-)

Gay Rights Tidbit: Barbara A. DeVane, Fairness for All Families Oversight Committee and Florida Alliance for Retired Americans Board Secretary, announced that supporters of the deceptively named "Marriage Protection Amendment" have submitted all 611,000 petitions necessary to put their dangerous amendment up for a vote in 2008. "While those pushing this dangerous amendment will try to appeal to prejudice we know it threatens to outlaw the legal recognition of any unmarried partners - gay or straight.

"That means that millions of domestic partners, including teachers, firefighters, seniors, police officers and countless others would lose health insurance benefits and other protections for

continued on page 30

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Smokey Joe's Café

One of Broadway's longest running hits, **Smokey Joe's Café** is the rockin' party of a show that will have your hands clappin' and toes tappin' as you listen to classics "Jailhouse Rock", "Stand By Me", "Yakety Yak", "Hound Dog", "On Broadway", "Spanish Harlem" and many more!

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The People Care Center presents:

A Night of Love

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6 pm to midnight

The Courthouse Executive Center

2145 14th Ave., Vero Beach

Tickets: \$35 individual

\$60 couple

call 772-321-9394

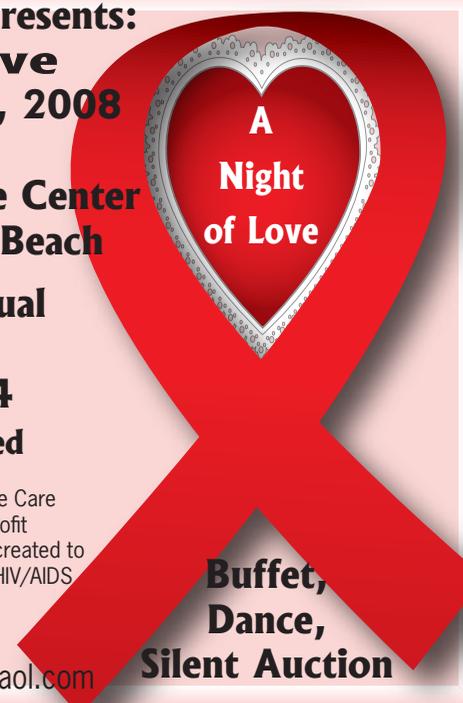
Cocktail attire required



People Care Center

772-321-9394 or peoplecarecenter@aol.com

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



**Buffet,
Dance,
Silent Auction**

Spiritually Speaking

New Year's Eve has been a sort of reckless abandon type of party experience for many. Inhibitions are let down, the booze flows freely (for those who are so inclined), and the entertainment aids in the festivity of celebrating the passing year and the coming year. In a real way, a sense of past, present, and future collide. We recall the past year's highs and lows, whether individually or nationally. We consider the present moment with all its pregnant possibilities. We contemplate and hope for a future year of prosperity, health, and goodness.

And of course, the New Year's resolutions...Who can forget those? We resolve to make changes, to lose weight, to improve this or that, etc. and usually these noble self-promises are rarely ever kept, but at least for a temporary instant we feel the exhilarating power of decision-making.

The right and privilege of choosing to do something is a God-given gift. We were created with free-will. That is magnificent, yet scary; for as we can choose to do good, we can also choose to do evil. Yet, the consequences of our choices shape the world in which we live. Humanity is a product of itself, that is to say, we have made the world as it is. Not that we have 'created' as God has, but in the social, emotional, political, religious, and relational world—it is what we have chosen it to be. There is no peace on earth because the

majority of the planet's inhabitants choose to disregard and disrespect each other. We could conceivably choose to love and respect each other, and in the words of the song: "Let there be peace on earth and *let it begin with ME.*" It begins with our individual choices.

Some choose to believe in a deistic god far removed from our existence. The God I believe in, who has been revealed in the person of Jesus Christ, is not some mean Sovereign waiting to judge us to hell and back. The God I know loves us unconditionally and compassionately (though at times this God has been misrepresented in history by 'religion.'). Religion has been misunderstood since time began. Religion is our quest to make sense out of life, especially as we consider the new year. Religion is not bad, it's just that people make it out to be bad by their bad choices.

According to Rabbi Harold Kushner, in his book, *Who Needs God*, religion satisfies two essential elements: (1) Not to explain God or to please God, but to help us meet some of our basic human needs. (2) Helps us to see the world in new ways...Kushner writes: "It makes an immense difference whether we see ourselves as isolated individuals at war...or as links in a network of human beings working for each other's happiness as well as our own."

To see religion in those two elements means we choose to respect the dignity of life in all people and see how our relationship with God enlightens and enhances our days on this earth. I know religion teaches an afterlife, but we are not excused from living responsibly here and now just because of a future 'in the sweet bye and bye' theology. Religion is not just a set of creeds we recite or rituals we perform; religion is a way of living and perceiving.

As we enter into an election year, we are confronted with both sides already poking around at the opponent's religious preferences. A Mormon for President, some are gasping? JFK was the first Roman Catholic President and we did not unravel at the seams. A person's worth is in moral integrity and character, and not in religious belief, (although those beliefs can be prejudicial when used incorrectly). Religion, properly utilized, shapes our integrity and character. Amid the rabble rousing on the political and religious scene I quote Ralph Waldo Emerson: "God enters by a private door into every individual." So let us choose not to judge others by standards we do not impose upon ourselves.

Having said all that, 2008 holds great possibilities for us as people of faith and as a nation; as a world of many cultures, ethnicities, and expressions of religion belief. We can choose to create a world of brotherhood or continue to divide and plunder. It is up to each of us. My prayer for our readers is this: "**May God (whoever you conceive God to be) bless you outrageously**



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and abundantly; and may you in return discover a loving relationship with your creator and live a life of ultimate meaning and significant purpose...and so it is...Amen!" ▼

The Reverend Gregory L. Denton is Pastor of New Hope First Community Church, "A church built on love where everyone is welcome," an independent growing congregation that believes in God's all-inclusive love. New Hope, celebrating its 12th year in the Palm Beaches, is located at 2929A South Seacrest Blvd. in Boynton Beach, FL. Saturday Praise! Service at 5:00 pm. Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am. Discussion Group/Bible Study Thursdays at 7:30 pm. On the web at www.newhopefla.org

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Jan. 3: Velvet LeNore	Jan. 17: Kelli Randell
Jan. 10: Amber Douglas	Jan. 24: Page King
Jan. 31: Angelical Marie Kincade	

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Jan. 4: Melissa Mason & Tia Milan	Jan. 18: Roxxy
Jan. 11: Roz Russell	Jan. 25: Page King

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January 26 th :	Dee Ranged with Dancers Ivy & Billy

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In My Words

a personal viewpoint

Note: My sophomore year of High School, I had a crush on my biology teacher, she eventually found out, how could she not, when her husband was my guidance counselor. After she knew, I lost everything I had with her, she wanted nothing to do with me, wouldn't look at me. This poem is about how she made me feel.

Ashley Titone

The Coldest Stare

I just want you to know,
You have no clue how you've made me feel.
No idea how deep my feelings are for you.
It kills me
Everyday.
Inside
I wanna die
Every time I walk by.
You won't look at me,
You won't care.

Walk by just to be friendly and say hi.
The reaction you give me
Versus the reaction you give other kids
Makes me cry and wanna die.

Other people walk by
You smile, say hi, you're fine.
When I walk by
It's a different story.

I want to be friendly
So I try to say hi.
The look on your face
When I walk by
Cold, hard, blank,
Emotionless.

The way you look at me, hurts me so bad.
The feeling you give

From looking at me that way
I can't explain it, hide it, or deny it.
All I know is I would rather you
Put a knife through my heart
Then look at me the way you do.

I walk by and you won't care.
You won't move, you won't look.
All you do is stare blankly
Praying that I pass quickly.
It's alright...I get the hint:
You don't care about me,
You never have, you never will.
Maybe it would have just been better
If I never existed at all.

Do you have a story, poem, recollection,
something to say? Here's your chance
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of Vero Beach

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Cold Keg

photos: Lee



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IN THE NEWS

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

TALAHASSEE—Equality Florida Year-End Report: This year, with your help, we:

- Organized public, political and financial support to defeat a discriminatory marriage amendment to our state's constitution and played a leadership role in building the Fairness for All Families Coalition, a group of over 200 organizations working to defeat the marriage amendment (visit www.fairnessforallfamilies.org);

- Stood up with Susan Stanton when the City of Largo - despite its own non-discrimination policies - fired Stanton after 14 years as city manager because she announced she was transitioning from male to female;

- Organized a 14-city vigil with over 1,000 participants following the vicious anti-gay murder of Ryan Skipper, to highlight hate crimes in our state;

- Won near-unanimous support in the Florida House of Representatives for the passage of Florida's anti-bullying law;

- Led the grassroots fight in our state to overturn the anti-LGBT adoption ban including a series of town hall meetings and a statewide lobby day at the capital;

- Crafted a statewide domestic partnership bill that will be introduced in the next Florida legislative session;

- Launched the Florida Gay-Straight Alliance Network, an unprecedented effort to provide support for the growing number of GSAs in schools throughout the state.; and

- Refused to let anti-gay forces distort the truth about our lives, by protesting a national anti-LGBT convention in to Brandon, Florida.

In 2008 Equality Florida will be shepherding a record-breaking 5 pro-equality bills through the legislature and we'll be working hard to defeat the dangerous anti-gay ballot measure that would take protections away from our families.

Please take a few minutes now and make the most generous holiday gift you can to Equality Florida.

DORAVILLE, GA—As reported in an article in *The Advocate*, Brian Bates, a 36-year-old business owner in Doraville, Ga., is that state's first openly gay Republican elected to office and possibly the first in the Deep South.

There are nine openly gay officials in Georgia, but Bates is the first Republican.

According to a report in *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Bates won a spot on the Doraville city council with close to 58% of the vote after losing a previous try.

Bates is active in his neighborhood association and has been a staunch supporter of Doraville police chief John King. Bates has lived in Doraville for almost seven years and credits his support for Chief King and his high level of community involvement as the keys to his victory.

"I am gay and there's no reason to hide it," Bates said to the *Journal-Constitution*. "I made the conscious decision to be open and honest about my orientation. It really didn't come up with my conversations with voters, and for the most part, I don't think they care. It was not a campaign issue. There is not a gay agenda. It wasn't an issue."

Bates is a longtime member of Georgia's chapter of the Log Cabin Republicans and considers himself fiscally conservative and socially moderate. He has said that he disagrees with how the Republican Party has handled gay issues but has withheld further discussion about specifics.

"I don't think it's responsible to attack individuals," Bates said. "The Republican Party has been a party of freedom and acceptance, and they need to stick to the policies that work, and that's about being fiscally responsible."

State representative Jill Chambers, a Republican representing Atlanta and whose district also includes Doraville, said she was thrilled about Bates's victory. She also

said she welcomes a debate about the Republican Party's positions on gay issues but does not think that his sexuality will be a political issue in Doraville.

"I don't think his sexuality is going to play a role on city council," Chambers said to the *Journal-Constitution*. "But his fiscal responsibility will be greatly appreciated on a day-to-day basis. His margin of victory shows that our community in north DeKalb cares more about the person and their performance as an elected official than someone's sexuality."

Bates, who was sworn in on November 19, said he hopes that his victory will inspire others to run for office. "I was elected to represent the residents of Doraville, and look forward to doing it with honor. And if it provides other opportunities for other candidates or encourages other individuals to run, I certainly encourage them to do so."

MINNEAPOLIS—It doesn't matter if you're gay or straight, you can't get legally married at Lyndale United Church of Christ.

The small, liberal church in south Minneapolis was the first of several Twin Cities congregations last year to stop performing civil marriage ceremonies as long as gay marriage is illegal. These churches, and a handful of others around the country that took the same step, will still hold a religious ceremony to bless the unions of straight and gay couples -- but straight couples must go separately to a judge or justice of the peace for the marriage license.

"If you feel that gay and lesbian people are loved and credited by God, then how can we continue to discriminate against our brothers and sisters?" asked Rev. Don Portwood, the reserved Nebraska native who's been lead pastor at the 120-member Lyndale United Church of Christ for 27 years.

WASHINGTON, DC—A statement released by Kevin Cathcart, Lambda Legal Executive Director stated that a group of 28 retired generals and admirals just released a letter urging Congress to repeal the military's beleaguered "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) policy - a policy that has destroyed the careers of approximately 12,000 servicemembers since 1993. Think about that number: 12,000 people who

served their country with distinction, in many cases going off to war, but were ultimately forced to give up their careers because they were discovered to be gay or lesbian.

During this time in civilian life, our communities have made great progress in the workplace. Today more than one third of all U.S. states protect people from being fired based on sexual orientation. A growing number of employers and city and local governments also offer these important protections. But, in the words of our colleagues at Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, DADT remains "the only law in the land that authorizes the firing of an American for being gay..."

Lambda Legal recently represented a gay man in the military whose relationship with his child was threatened when his soon-to-be-ex-wife mounted a custody challenge based, in part, on the fact that he had a same-sex partner. Our client could have lost his job and his pension (and thus his means of supporting his children, as well as himself) if his identity and sexual orientation had become public in the course of filing court papers in the case.

The group of 28 soldiers cited scholarly data showing 65,000 gay and lesbian soldiers currently serving in the military - that's far too many people living with the fear that they could be fired anywhere, anytime simply because of who they are. It's time to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." America's armed forces would be much stronger for it.

CONCORD, NH—Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards chatted up a small crowd of LGBT Granite Staters at the New Hampshire Freedom to Marry Coalition's Concord headquarters on Nov. 25, an unusual move for a top-tier candidate with the state's all-important primary just around the corner on Jan. 8.

After fielding several general questions about his universal healthcare plan, which he said would provide affordable healthcare for all individuals and families, prevent discrimination based on pre-existing conditions and create parity between medical and mental health coverage, among other things, Edwards was asked by a woman in the audience if his plan would enable

continued on page 24

transgender people to get coverage for hormone treatments. The woman explained that there is a bill currently pending in the New Hampshire legislature that would require health insurers to cover the cost of such treatments, since with few exceptions transgender patients are required to pay for them out of their own pockets.

"I've never been asked [about that], but I'm for it," said Edwards. He later added, "It's equality."

Another woman asked the former North Carolina senator to "explain how it is that you don't support gay marriage but you believe in parity for all the federal benefits that gays are not currently eligible for?"

"Yes. Can I explain? Not well," he acknowledged with a laugh, which in turn drew chuckles from the audience. As he has stated before, Edwards said he does not personally support gay marriage though it's been a source of internal conflict for him. "Secondly, I do believe though that the substantive rights that are available to heterosexual couples should be available to all couples and that's why I'm for civil unions, and I am for the federal government recognizing and making available every single right" under federal law to same-sex couples. "That's why I think DOMA was wrong when it was enacted and I think it's wrong today and I will do everything in my power to get the Defense of Marriage Act eliminated. It's why I will end 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' on the first day I'm in office. Because I think those things are overtly discriminatory," said Edwards.

"I'm not opposed to any state recognizing the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry. I'm not opposed to that at all. Second, I think that a lot of this is whether a particular faith decides to recognize gay and lesbian couples as being married in their church, in their faith, and I think that those are decisions that ought to be made by them, not by me." Edwards added that despite his personal view, "I don't think it's right for me to impose that view on the rest of America. I've said publicly many times, nobody made me God and I don't think I am or claim to be. I don't think I've been imbued with some great wisdom about this. I think this is an issue

about which there's a lot of disagreement but there's also ... a great deal of consensus." His responsibility, said Edwards, "is to move America forward" on the issue as best he can.

"That's why I think DOMA was wrong when it was enacted and I think it's wrong today and I will do everything in my power to get the Defense of Marriage Act eliminated. It's why I will end 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and

When a man in the audience continued to press the issue, Edwards acknowledged that his position on legal protections for same-sex couples may seem inconsistent. "I'm being as honest as I can," he said of his continued opposition to marriage rights. "I don't think you're going to find any consistency, I might add, among the other Democratic presidential candidates ... I think they're all in the same place."

"I think that most people will say that gay and lesbian couples should be treated fairly and equally and they should not be discriminated against," said Edwards. "And I think most Americans would be for that and I think that these things we're talking about accomplish that."

As for repealing "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on his first day in office, Edwards noted that as Commander in Chief, the president can make such decisions. "'Don't Ask, Don't Tell,' was put in by a president," he observed, "and the president of the United States can stop it and that's exactly what I'll do." Acknowledging that repealing the military's gay ban may be harder than it sounds, Edwards added with a grin, "Realistically can I do it on the first day? I don't know. But I'll do it early."

Edwards was the third candidate to visit the New Hampshire Freedom to Marry office. Democratic contender Dennis Kucinich spoke to the group on Nov. 20; Bill Richardson dropped in earlier this year.

WASHINGTON, DC—The National Stonewall Democrats issued the following statement on the removal in conference of the Matthew Shepard Act (also known as the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act) from the final version of the National Defense Authorization Act: "Democrats in both the U.S. House and Senate support passage of the Matthew

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Shepard Act (Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act). The Democratic Leadership, which guided this legislation to successful passage in their respective chambers, are now burdened with a moral obligation to see their work completed.

"If the National Defense Authorization Act is not the appropriate vehicle for passage, then we encourage the Democratic Leadership to work with our community to find the most expedient way to place this legislation on the President's desk within this Congress."

The Matthew Shepard Act would extend federal grants to local law enforcement agencies in order to more thoroughly investigate and prosecute domestic terror crimes that target individuals based on disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. Under existing hate crimes laws, such grants are routinely provided to local agencies for similar crimes that target victims based on race, color, national origin or religion.

Presidential candidates Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama are introductory co-sponsors of the Senate version of the legislation as was Representative Dennis Kucinich of the House version. Senators John Edwards and Mike Gravel, along with New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson have also taken positions supporting the legislation.

A 2007 poll conducted by Peter Hart Research associates found that three out of four Americans supported the expansion of federal hate crimes law to include crimes based on disability, sexual orientation, gender or gender identity. Support cut across partisan, ethnic and religious lines. 74% of

African Americans support the legislation along with 74% of Whites and 72% of Latinas/os. 63% of Evangelical Christians support the legislation according to the poll, as do 56% of Republican men.

STRASBOURG, FRANCE—The European Union has become the first international body to have a treaty containing explicit language prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of was signed at a ceremony in Strasbourg, seat of the European Parliament.

Parliamentary President Hans-Gert Poettering, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, and the current head of the Council of EU member states, Portuguese Prime Minister Jose Socrates put their signatures to the document amid cheers from some member states and jeers from others.

Britain and Poland had wanted the charter put to a referendum and have refused to sign onto the document.

The Charter brings together into a single document all of the separate EU laws and regulations on human rights but despite the fanfare it has no legal force. That will only happen when the parliaments of all 27 member states ratify a concord called the Lisbon Treaty that reforms the way the EU operates.

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3865 N Wickham Rd, Melbourne, FL 32935	
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4301 N. Wickham Rd., Melbourne	
The Living Room of Brevard GLBT CC	321-505-0077
165 N. Babcock, Unit B, Melbourne mailing: PO Box 60910, Palm Bay, FL 32906-0910	
PFLAG Melbourne.....	www.PFLAGmelbourne.org
Meets monthly on the fourth Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Riviera United Church of Christ, 451 Riviera Drive NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905	
PFLAG Vero Beach.....	772-778-9835
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Party Town U.S.A.....	772-465-5255
6829 S. US 1, Port St. Lucie FL	
PFLAG Martin County	561-758-4094
First Monday of every month at 7 pm at Treasure Coast UU, 21 SE Central Parkway, Stuart, FL	
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10474B SW Village Center Dr., Port St. Lucie	
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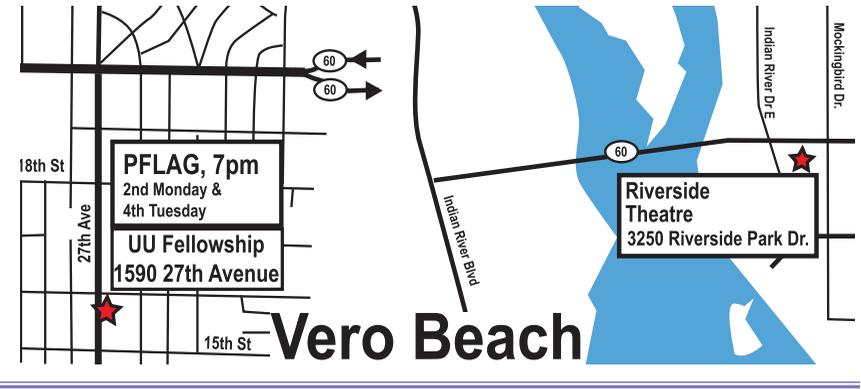
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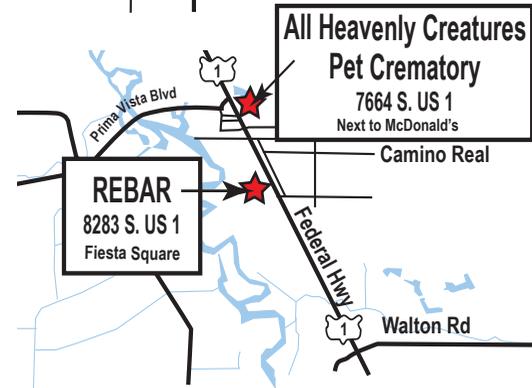


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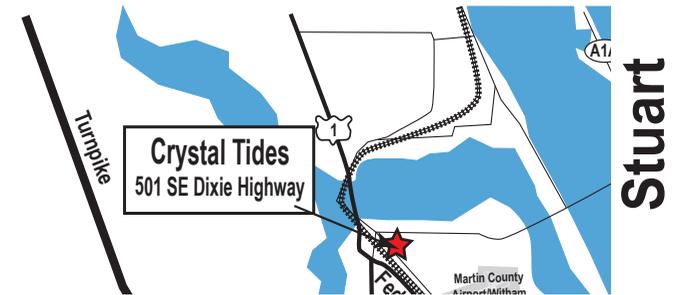
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their families.

“As an advocate for retired Floridians, I know this amendment would hit our seniors particularly hard. Widowed seniors often don’t remarry and rely on domestic partnership benefits as a literal lifeline. We can’t let them strip away these vital protections so many Florida families depend on.

“Having had four years to gather signatures, their announcement that they’ve reached the threshold comes as no surprise. In fact, we’ve been preparing all along for the enormous challenge of defeating this measure. The polls show this will be a VERY CLOSE election, but that Floridians will defeat the amendment if they hear our message.

“I’m saddened when I think of the enormous amount of time and resources that the folks pushing this amendment have wasted on a campaign that, if successful, will make it harder for Floridians to take care of their families. Imagine for a moment if they had chosen to be constructive, rather than destructive. How many meals could have been provided to those who are hungry; how much better we could have been taking care of our seniors, our children and our vulnerable.

“This announcement guarantees that we must now fight this battle for the basic civil rights of all Floridians. We cannot stand idly by and watch our Florida Constitution be turned into a tool of discrimination that harms Floridians and makes it harder to protect our loved ones. The Florida Alliance for Retired Americans is proud to be one of the 200 organizations across the state that have joined the Fairness for All Families Coalition.” You can help, go to www.FairnessForAllFamilies.org

FAIRNESS FOR ALL FAMILIES SEEKS CAMPUS COORDINATORS! We are in need of energized and dynamic young leaders to become a part of the statewide effort to defeat this hateful and discriminatory amendment.

Fairness for All Families is currently looking for students from all fields of study and backgrounds to join our Campus Coordinator Program. Each Campus Coordinator will report directly to Campaign Staff who will help them manage an aggressive work plan designed to activate their respective college or University Campus. Prospective Coordinators will be interviewed and selected by the campaign’s Field Director. If you’re interested, contact Stratton Pollitzer at Stratton@eqfl.org

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



When Velvet LeNore puts on a production, she brings the cutest, sexiest boys to dance with her and the number is always fantastic. Above she’s strutting her stuff with a whole chorus line of hunks at **Cold Keg** on a Thursday Trash night not long ago.

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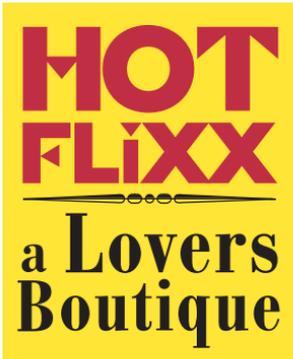
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