

SCGLPM E-BULLETIN, 6 January 2006

South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement
and the Harriet Hancock Community Center
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EDITOR'S NOTE: OUT IN CAMDEN? OUT IN ORANGEBURG? OUT IN FLORENCE?

This week Rainbow Radio goes on the road with our special **OUT IN AIKEN** episode. The show airs on Sunday, Jan 8, at 10 a.m. on WOIC 1230 AM.

WE WANT TO FEATURE YOUR COMMUNITY IN UPCOMING EPISODES!

Are you out in Camden, or Florence, or Orangeburg, or Greenwood? What is it like to be out in your area? What resources are available? What is the community like?

Let us know and Rainbow Radio could feature you on our Columbia Air America broadcast! And, if you want, you can buy time to air the show again in your own community! Contact Rainbow Radio at SCPrideCenter@aol.com, or call 803.771.7713.

You can listen to previous episodes at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio.

Rainbow Radio is South Carolina's first ever gay and lesbian radio show, airing weekly on WOIC 1230 AM, Columbia Air America station.

To support the show, send your donation to SCGLPM (mark the memo line of your check "Rainbow Radio"), PO Box 12648, Columbia SC 29211. For a \$35 donation, receive a special CD copy of the premiere show, which aired on Oct. 9. For a donation of \$50 or more, receive CD copies of the first six shows. For more information about Rainbow Radio, email SCPrideCenter@aol.com.

Charleston folks should stay tuned for the Alliance for Full Acceptance new radio show, which will tape its first program on Jan 18 and air every Saturday morning on AM 730.

Also, SCEC has begun airing radio ads in Myrtle Beach! (The radio ads were created by AFFA.) For more information, or to find out about getting ads in your area, contact SCEC at ed@scequality.org.

Rainbow Radio hopes to air more "Out in ___" shows this year! We want to discover the stories, organizations, and exigencies of gay and lesbian life across the state. Let us know about YOUR community! Or if you would like to sponsor a show (ONLY \$200!!), contact us at 803.771.7713. Email Rainbow Radio at SCPrideCenter@aol.com!

THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

(COLUMBIA) THIS WEEK ON RAINBOW RADIO: OUT IN AIKEN!

This week's episode of Rainbow Radio is OUT IN AIKEN! This week we go on the road to find out what it's like to be gay and lesbian around the state of South Carolina. On Sunday, Jan 8, tune in to WOIC 1230 AM (or check the show out on the website at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio), and hear about what it is like to be part of the gay and lesbian community of Aiken. Hear about the billboard campaigns in Aiken and Augusta, the USC Aiken student group, that infamous "dike" email from Jim Demint's campaign to a local organizer, the formation of CSRA Rainbow Alliance, and the downtown Aiken service project that turned into a media controversy! This weeks show is sponsored by OIA, Out in Asheville, the gay and lesbian newspaper based in Asheville, NC. On Jan 15, Rainbow Radio will feature Alex Shoor, the Southeastern Regional Media Manager from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). Shoor will discuss the work of GLAAD, as well as the upcoming training workshops he'll be offering in South Carolina later this month (see story below). The show will be sponsored by Dick Hubbard and the Hubbard Group of Columbia.

If you missed the shows during the holidays, you can listen at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio. Recent sponsors have included Panache salon in Lexington, and Ashley Byrd and Chris Ray of the SC Gay and Lesbian Business Guild. Rainbow Radio shows are available online for download or podcast at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio. The show is currently seeking new sponsors for 2006 (with a special discount through Jan 15 for Business Guild members). For more information, contact Rainbow Radio at SCPrideCenter@aol.com.

If you would like to support Rainbow Radio, the state's *first ever gay and lesbian radio show*, send a donation to SCGLPM (write "Rainbow Radio" in the memo line), PO Box 12648, Columbia SC 29211. For a \$35 donation, receive a special CD copy of the premiere show, which aired on Oct 9. For a donation of \$50 or more, receive CD copies of the first 6 shows!

(STATEWIDE) ANTI-GAY GROUPS TARGET NBC'S "THE BOOK OF DANIEL"

According to GLAAD media alerts and The State newspaper of Columbia, anti-gay and religious right groups are protesting NBC's new drama, "The Book of Daniel," which portrays an Episcopal priest who has conversations with Jesus about his difficult relations with his family and congregation. The groups are protesting the show in part because it portrays a gay character as the priest's son, and in part because, as the American Family Association website notes, the show is produced by a "practicing homosexual." WIS news in Columbia has received hundreds of emails and phone calls demanding that the show be taken off the air. In the past, the American Family Association has targeted "Saturday Night Live," "NYPD Blue," "Nightline," Walt Disney, and Target with protests and boycotts. "The Book of Daniel" airs tonight, Friday, Jan 6. Contact your local NBC affiliate and let them know you want the freedom to choose what you watch and encourage them not to censor the program. In Columbia, join The State forum at www.thestate.com after the show airs. Contact WIS-TV at www.wistv.com, or call them at: 803.799.1010.

(COLUMBIA) MCC COLUMBIA TO BECOME GARDEN OF GRACE, DISAFFILIATING FROM MCC

The 112-member, 12-year-old Metropolitan Community Church of Columbia is poised to become Garden of Grace United Church, claiming a new name, new home, and new denomination in 2006. On Sunday, Jan 8, the church membership will vote at a special congregational meeting following worship on a unanimous leadership recommendation that the church disaffiliate from the West Hollywood-based Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The special meeting was called by a unanimous vote of MCC-Columbia members at the annual congregational meeting in October. The name Garden of Grace United Church was chosen in November after a congregational forum and weeks of community and church input. The church has received repeated affirmations from the United Church of Christ, and in April Garden of Grace hopes to become officially Garden of Grace United Church of Christ. The 1.3-million-member United Church of Christ is the first mainline denomination to approve full marriage equality for people of the same gender. The denomination has 2 Charleston churches but no others in SC. MCC Columbia is located in a rental facility at 1111 Bellevue Street, near downtown, but construction is currently underway on a new 3600-square-foot celebration center in southeastern Columbia, at 1020 Atlas Road. The church's new website address is www.gogucc.com.

(CHARLESTON) AFFA MEETING TO FEATURE SC NAACP LEADER, HRC PRESIDENT

On Tuesday, Jan 10, AFFA's January meeting will feature Rev. Joseph Darby, the First Vice-President of the South Carolina NAACP. Special guest will be Joe Solmonese, the president of the Human Rights Campaign. The meeting will be held at 5:45 p.m. at the Renaissance Hotel on Wentworth Street (between King and Meeting) in downtown Charleston. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, Darby is a graduate of the University of South Carolina and the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A fourth generation minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Darby currently serves as the pastor of Morris Brown A.M.E. Church in Charleston. Widely recognized for his leadership in the state, Darby received the 1999 South Carolina Christian Action Council's Howard G. McClain Christian Action in Public Policy Award and the 1999 NAACP Southeast Region Medgar W. Evers Leadership Award. For more information, contact AFFA at info@affa-sc.org.

(AIKEN) MARLBORO STATION TO HOST FIRST PRIDE TOUR SHOW JAN 13!

Marlboro Station in Aiken will host the first of the Pride Tour shows on Friday, Jan 13, starting at 11 p.m. The show will feature Mr and Ms Pride 2005, Wolfe and Paris LaFeris, as well as Mr Pride 2003, Tex, and the Queen of Pride 2004, Ms Kiki Merlot, along with other performers. The Pride Tour shows travel the state to raise awareness about Pride, to promote the good of the gay and lesbian communities of our state, and to raise funds for Pride 2006. All proceeds and tips will go to support SC Pride 2006, which will be held Saturday, May 20, in Columbia. Future Pride Tour shows include a Jan 25 show at PT's 1109 in Columbia, and the Feb 4 Kiki Merlot's 50th Birthday Party, a "Wear Your Favorite Rainbow Color" Party! More details coming soon!

(STATEWIDE) ORDER YOUR 2006 NETWORK CALENDAR! INCLUDES SCEC AND GLPM PHOTOS!

Hot off the press! Order your 2006 Progressive Network calendar today! The calendar notes important dates in SC history, and it features photos of your friends and allies at various Network events. Only \$10 each, or three for \$25! The calendar includes photos of SCGLPM couples applying for marriage licenses on Freedom to Marry Day 2005, as well as longtime allies Tom and Marilyn Summers staffing the SCEC booth at the South Carolina State Fair! To order your calendar, contact the SC Progressive Network at PO Box 8325, Columbia SC 29202, or 803.808.3384, or email network@scpronet.com.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS

(COLUMBIA) CENTER TO HOST LEADERSHIP SKILLS WORKSHOP

The Harriet Hancock Center will host a special leadership workshop on Monday, Jan 23, 7-9 p.m. The workshop, led by facilitators from the University of South Carolina, is designed to help anyone discover their individual leadership styles and to help them develop their existing skills. It will be beneficial to those who are leaders in their communities, in their professions, or their families. The workshop will also offer insights into dealing with others who have different leadership styles. The workshop is part of the Center's ongoing Third Monday Workshop series, held on the third Monday of every month. For more information or to reserve a spot in the workshop, email SCPrideCenter@aol.com or call 803.771.7713.

(CHARLESTON, COLUMBIA) GLAAD MEDIA EXPERT TO OFFER TRAINING

Alex Shoor, the Southeastern Regional Media Manager at the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (or GLAAD), will be in South Carolina and Georgia in late January to offer media training workshops for state activist and volunteers. At this crucial moment in our state's history, it is essential that we be prepared to speak clearly and directly with the media and the public about our lives and our families. Learn how to communicate effectively with members of the media and your communities (and your families and co-workers) on LGBT issues of faith, family, and marriage. The workshop will provide tools for developing your personal message to the media, building relationships with journalists, and conducting interviews with print, radio, and television reporters. The training is FREE, though some sessions are limited in seating. Please contact the local organizers. Among the organizations hosting and participating in the workshops will be the SC Equality Coalition, the Alliance for Full Acceptance, the SC Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement, and Georgia Equality. On Thursday, Jan 19, Shoor will offer a workshop with AFFA in Charleston, 6-9 p.m., at the 14 George Street Spoleto offices. For more information, or to register for the Charleston workshop, contact AFFA at info@affa-sc.org, or contact Shoor at shoor@glaad.org. Shoor will lead a workshop in Columbia on Saturday, Jan 21. The workshop is hosted by the SC Equality Coalition, and scheduled in conjunction with the SCEC delegate meeting (see story above) and the annual board strategic planning meeting of SCGLPM. To participate in the Columbia workshop, contact Michael Drennan at ed@scequality.org. On Sunday, Jan 22, Shoor will be in Savannah working with Georgia Equality.

(COLUMBIA) SCEC DELEGATE MEETING TO INCLUDE MEDIA TRAINING

The SCEC delegates meeting scheduled for Saturday, Dec 10, has been rescheduled for Saturday, Jan 21, 2006, 10-2, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia (525 St. Andrews Road). At the meeting, Alex Shoor, Southeastern Regional Media Manager from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, will offer training on working with the media for SCEC delegates and volunteers. ANYONE INTERESTED in the training or updates on the amendment campaign welcome to attend. More information coming soon. Don't forget to visit the new SCEC website at www.scequality.org, and order SCEC bumper stickers at www.cafepress.com/scecweb. For more information, contact Executive Director Michael Drennan at ed@scequality.org, or call 803.741.1590.

(CHARLOTTE) HRC CAROLINAS DINNER MOVES TO CHARLOTTE

The 11th Annual HRC Carolinas Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, Feb 25, at the Charlotte Convention Center. The fundraising benefit brings together the North Carolina and South Carolina lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender communities and straight allies for an evening of laughter, gaiety and an inspiring call to action. The evening will feature live entertainment, a cocktail welcome reception, silent auction, an elegant full course dinner, and high-profile speakers and guests. Also featured will be the presentation of awards to activists from both North and South Carolina. SCGLPM president Ed Madden will be among those honored this year. Past honorees include AFFA of Charleston and Columbia activist Harriet Hancock. Although the dinner has consistently been held in North Carolina, the event is geared towards both North and South Carolina. Historically, attendance from South Carolina has been low, but organizers, including co-chairs Jennifer Garner and Jay Biles, hope to see that change this year. "We'd very much like South Carolina to be a big part of the HRC Carolinas Dinner," says Biles. Tickets are \$175, \$195 after Feb 8. Call 1.800.494.8497 to purchase tickets to the event. For more information, visit: www.hrccarolinas.org.

(GREENVILLE) MLK CELEBRATION TO FEATURE KING DAUGHTER KNOWN FOR OPPOSITION TO GAY MARRIAGE

Martin Luther King's youngest child, Bernice King, has been invited to help Greenville County celebrate the county's first official holiday honoring MLK. Bernice King, a lawyer and minister who made national news a year ago for her anti-gay comments, is scheduled to be the keynote speaker at a diversity banquet on Jan 13 in Greenville. The banquet will kick off the 2006 MLK Dream Weekend.

Bernice King made national news in December 2004 when she participated in a civil rights rally in Atlanta that included an emphatic denunciation of same-sex marriage as part of the platform. An outspoken opponent of same-sex marriage, Bernice King has stated, "I know deep down in my sanctified soul that he [Dr. King] did not take a bullet for same-sex unions." For more information on Bernice King's anti-gay comments, see:

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1218-10.htm>

<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/1214-24.htm>

Also as part of the MLK Dream Weekend, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a Greenville native and head of the national civil rights organization the Rainbow PUSH coalition, will lead a memorial workshop on Jan 15 at a Simpsonville church. Greenville County Council members voted 7-5 in February to officially add King Day to the list of holidays county employees receive with pay. Greenville County was the last of South Carolina's 46 counties to honor the civil rights leader with the holiday designation.

The inclusion of an anti-gay speaker in the event is not without context or precedent. In 1996, the Greenville County Council passed a resolution that homosexuality undermines community standards. In 1997, 10,000 people packed Greenville Memorial Stadium for an anti-gay rally, planned in response to GLPM's state Pride march, held in Greenville that year.

Although South Carolina will vote on an amendment prohibiting marriage or any other legal protection to same-sex families and their children in November, although anti-gay legislator Rep. Bob Inglis (who advocated the firing of gay and lesbian school teachers last year) is listed as a "key supporter" of the event, and although Bernice King is known for her statements against gay marriage, a spokesperson for the event told SCGLPM this week that there is "no connection" between the decision to invite Bernice King and the amendment on the ballot later this year.

(COLUMBIA) MUSIC, MOVIES AND MOTION TO SUPPORT COLUMBIA BLACK LATINO GAY PRIDE

On Feb 18, 7-9 p.m., Club Fusion will host Music, Movies, and Motion, the official event announcing Columbia Black Latino Gay Pride 2006. The event, which is cosponsored by Palmetto Umoja and by the Carolinas Black Pride Movement, will feature entertainment and prizes. Club Fusion is located at 920 Lady Street. For more information, go to: www.clubfusioncolumbia.com or www.carolinablackpridemovement.com or www.freewebs.com/palmettoumoja.

(COLUMBIA) CENTER TO HOST MEN'S SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

The Harriet Hancock Community Center will host a spiritual formation workshop for gay men on Monday evenings in February and March. Working out of the Christian tradition of prayer and meditation, the meetings will explore the contours of the gay soul and images of God, as well as the gender issues and forms of spiritual discernment that structure gay men's spiritual journeys. The group will also examine what it means to be a wounded healer and what it means to come into who we are. While the group will work out of the Christian tradition, participants do not have to profess any specific faith tradition to participate. Participants will be asked to commit to attendance at the six sessions and to confidentiality. This will not be a therapy group but an exploration of spiritual journeys. The men's spiritual formation group will be limited to eight people. Tom Glenn, a Presbyterian minister and a trained spiritual director will facilitate the group. There will be a \$25 registration fee. The group will meet on Monday evenings, 7-9 p.m., at the Harriet Hancock Center. Meetings will be held Feb 6, 13, and 27, and March 6, 13, and 27. For more information, contact the Center at SCPrideCenter@aol.com or call 803.771.7713.

(COLUMBIA) PRIDE IDOL RETURNS TO COLUMBIA MARCH 4!

Pride Idol returns March 4 to Columbia's PT's Cabaret. This fourth fun and funny fundraiser features lots of live South Carolina talent and some of the state's most popular drag queens. What started out as a love for a certain reality TV show has grown into one of SCGLPM's best fundraising events. Past local celebrity judges have included Columbia's premiere Queen of Camp Patti O'Furniture, star of Columbia stage Bobby Craft, and Michael Callair, WWE Wrestler. Hosted as always by the fabulous Ms Nicole Roberts, the longest reigning Ms Gay Pride and the current Miss Castle at Large. But the audience is the final judge, so bring your tips and get the final vote! One lucky person will join past Pride Idol winners Leigh Burton, Elizabeth McLean and Nik Evans as the best of the best in South Carolina; winning the opportunity to be featured at the SC Pride celebration on May 20. Do you have what it takes to be the next Pride Idol? For contestant and ticket information, contact SCPrideIdol@aol.com.

SAVE THE DATES:

Jan 21: SCEC Delegate Meeting in Columbia
Jan 23: Third Monday Workshop on Leadership Skills at Center
Mar 4: Pride Idol 2006!
Mar 12-18: Marriage Equality Week
May 20: SC Pride 2006 in Columbia!
June 19-26: Columbia Black Latino Gay Pride

[Check out the calendar at www.scglpm.org for more information.]

SCGLPM is a member of the SC Equality Coalition and the SC Progressive Network.
SCGLPM is also a member of the Federation of Statewide LGBT Advocacy Organizations.

The SCGLPM Bulletin is an electronic news bulletin distributed weekly by SCGLPM and the Harriet Hancock Community Center. Email news items and announcements to SCPrideCenter@aol.com. If you have any questions about the bulletin or your subscription, email SCPrideCenter@aol.com for more information. Please forward the bulletin to interested friends and allies. Through this bulletin, GLPM hopes to facilitate communication among GLBT communities and organizations throughout the state.