

SCGLPM E-BULLETIN, 20 January 2006

South Carolina Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement
and the Harriet Hancock Community Center
mailing address: P.O. Box 12648, Columbia SC 29211
street address: 1108 Woodrow, Columbia SC 29205
(803)771.7713 * SCPrideCenter@aol.com * www.scglpm.org

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EDITOR'S NOTE: FREEDOM TO MARRY DAY COMING FEB 13!

For a third year in a row, the SC Gay and Lesbian Pride Movement will host events centered on Freedom to Marry Day, recognized by gay and lesbian civil rights groups across the nation on Feb 12. Because Feb 12 falls on Sunday this year, most groups will be hosting events and actions on Monday, Feb 13.

This year AFFA of Charleston and the SC Equality Coalition are joining GLPM in this effort, and we are broadening the message to clearly include civil unions, domestic partnerships, and other forms of relationship protection and relationship equality.

DO YOU WANT TO STAND UP FOR MARRIAGE, CIVIL UNIONS, OR RELATIONSHIP EQUALITY?

We need couples to show up on Feb 13 at courthouses in Columbia and Charleston—and other cities if possible!—to request marriage licenses, to support marriage equality or civil unions or other legal ways to protect our families, and to take a stand against the upcoming family discrimination amendment.

JOIN US! Email SCPrideCenter@aol.com for more information about GLPM's third annual Marriage Equality Week and our attempts to put a SC face and voice on the marriage issue, or to find out how you can join the effort. Email ed@scequality.org for more information about statewide efforts.

Also scheduled will be a press conference by supportive clergy and a town hall meeting in Columbia on Thursday, Feb 16. For more information about the work of supportive clergy, email Candace Chellew-Hodge at editor@whosoever.org. For more information about the town hall meeting, email Michael Drennan at ed@scequality.org. SCEC is also planning town hall meetings for Charleston, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, and Florence.

**BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN” OPENS IN SOUTH CAROLINA!
TAKE OVER COLUMBIA WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE MOUNTAIN!**

“Brokeback Mountain” opens in Columbia and Greenville this weekend. It opened in Charleston last week. Take Over Columbia is taking over the theatres TONIGHT, with two locations and eight times. Columbiana Grande at 1250 Bower Parkway is screening the film at 1, 4, 7:15, and 10:15. Carmike Wynnsong 10 at 5320 Forest Drive is showing the film at 1, 4, 7:15, and 10:15. For more information about Take Over Columbia events, send an email to: TakeOverColumbia-subscribe@yahoo.com.

THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

(COLUMBIA) THIS WEEK ON RAINBOW RADIO: TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY IN SC

This week and next, Rainbow Radio will focus on transgender identity and the transgender community of South Carolina, with guests from across the state. Special guests are Gypsey Elaine Teague of Clemson, a transgender author and Clemson University’s only transgender faculty member, and Jo Crowder, a Columbia transgender woman who says she never felt “like herself” until she transitioned last year. The commentary comes from Rev. Wilhelmina Hein, the transgender pastor of Open Door Church in Charleston. This week’s show is sponsored by Panache salon in West Columbia. Rainbow Radio airs every Sunday at 10 a.m. on WOIC 1230 AM, Columbia’s Air America affiliate. Or check out the show on the website at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio). Rainbow Radio shows are available online for download or podcast at www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio. 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!

(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/sceceweb. For more information, contact Executive Director Michael Drennan at ed@scequality.org, or call 803.741.1590.

(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) 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.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS

(CHARLESTON) WE ARE FAMILY HOSTS "TAPAS AROUND THE PENINSULA"

On Saturday, Jan 28, 6-9 pm, WeAreFamily will offer its fourth annual progressive dinner, "Tapas Around the Peninsula"! Tickets are \$25 per person and are available from any board member or by calling 762.3275. You will enjoy tapas from local restaurants as you visit four homes on or near Colonial Lake. To pick up maps, programs, name tags, info on carpooling, or last-minute tickets, stop by the WAF office at 327 Folly Road in the Cross Creek Shopping Center between 5:30 and 6 p.m., then proceed to 203 Broad Street where the evening begins at 6! WeAreFamily is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support services and community education on behalf of GLBT and questioning youth. If you are unable to participate in the dinner but wish to support WAR, send your contribution to WeAreFamily, PO Box 30734, Charleston SC 29417. For more information, go to to www.waf.org.

(DURHAM NC) SONG TO HONOR MANDY CARTER, COLUMBIA MAN NAMED TO BOARD

SONG, or Southerners On New Ground, will honor Mandy Carter for her longtime commitment to social justice during a celebration on Saturday, Jan 28, in Durham NC. Carter has been a longtime ally of SCGLPM and helped to organize the first Pride march in South Carolina. The celebration will also include a welcome for new board members, including Columbia's Robert-John Hinojosa. For more information about the event, go to: www.southnewground.org. Or contact Robert-John at 803.269.1496.

(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.

(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) 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) 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. 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.

(ATLANTA) WHOSOEVER TO CELEBRATE TEN YEARS WITH CONFERENCE

Whosoever made history in 1996 by becoming the first online magazine for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Christians. Now Whosoever is making history again, marking ten years as the premiere resource for millions of GLBT Christians seeking spiritual wholeness. To celebrate that landmark, Whosoever will host a conference at Virginia Highland Church in Atlanta GA, July 14-15, 2006. The "Reaping the Spiritual Harvest" conference will feature many inspiring workshops and keynote speeches from Harry Knox, director of the Human Rights Campaign's faith and religion program, and Candace Chellew-Hodge, founder of Whosoever Ministries, who now lives in Camden SC and serves as the assistant pastor of Garden of Grace United Church in Columbia. Renowned lesbian Christian singer Marsha Stevens will give a special concert. Workshops will focus on such topics as spiritual self-defense, coming out to family, and ways to reclaim the scriptures as a source of joy and inspiration for LGBT Christians. For more information about the conference, visit www.whosoever.org/conference, or email Candace at editor@whosoever.org.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Jan 21: SCEC Delegate Meeting in Columbia
- Jan 23: Third Monday Workshop on Leadership Skills at Center
- Feb 12-18, 2006: Marriage Equality Week
- Mar 4: Pride Idol 2006!
- May 20, 2006: 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.