

## SCGLPM E-BULLETIN, 2 February 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](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com) \* [www.scglpm.org](http://www.scglpm.org)

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WE NEED YOU!**

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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:editor@whosoever.org). For more information about the town hall meeting, email Michael Drennan at [ed@scequality.org](mailto:ed@scequality.org). SCEC is also planning town hall meetings for Charleston, Greenville, Myrtle Beach, and Florence.

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## THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK

### (COLUMBIA) THIS WEEK ON RAINBOW RADIO: GARDEN OF GRACE UNITED CHURCH

This week Rainbow Radio will talk to members of the Garden of Grace United Church in Columbia. The church is in a period of transition, building a new church and changing denominations. Learn more about this spiritual and organizational journey! This week's show is sponsored by Midlands Pastoral Care. 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](http://www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio)). Rainbow Radio shows are available online for download or podcast at [www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio](http://www.scglpm.org/rainbowradio). For more information, contact Rainbow Radio at [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto: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) MISS KIKI MERLOT'S BIRTHDAY BASH A FUNDRAISER FOR SCGLPM!*

On Saturday, Feb 4, the former Ms SC Pride Kiki Merlot will turn 50 years old, and she is hosting a birthday bash at PT's Cabaret, in Five Points. The show begins at 10 p.m. Special guests who will perform with Kiki will include Nicole Roberts, Patti O'Furniture, Miss SC Pride 2005 Paris LeFaris, Deja Davenport, and Eva Dee Struction. All proceeds from the event, including donations and performer tips, will go to SCGLPM. If you can't attend but want to give Kiki this wonderful birthday present, send your donations to SCGLPM, PO Box 12648, Columbia SC 29211 (mark your check as "Kiki's Birthday Bash"!).

### (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](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com) or call 803.771.7713.

### (COLUMBIA) PALMETTO UMOJA TO MEET SATURDAY, BLACK HIV AWARENESS DAY

Palmetto Umoja will meet at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb 4, at the Harriet Hancock Community Center (1108 Woodrow) in Columbia. Also on Saturday, PALSS and DHEC will host a National Black HIV Awareness Day testing event at MLK Park (2000 Greene St), 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. HIV testing will be available, as well as food and prizes, and live radio with HOT 103.9 and the Big DM.

### (COLUMBIA) COLUMBIA BEAR DEN TO MEET SATURDAY

The Columbia Den of the Carolina Bear Lodge will meet Saturday for their monthly CBL dinner night at Captain Tom's Seafood at 5:30. The Bear Lodge also celebrates its anniversary this weekend in Hickory NC. For more information about the Bear Lodge, go to: [www.carolinabears.com](http://www.carolinabears.com).

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**SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS**

**(CHARLESTON) PFLAG CHARLESTON MEETS FIRST WEDNESDAY OF MONTH**

PFLAG of Charleston holds its monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are held at the We Are Family office in the Cross Creek Shopping Center on Folly Road. For directions or information, contact [champsinschool@aol.com](mailto:champsinschool@aol.com) or call 843.559.2996.

**(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](http://www.hrccarolinas.org).

**(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](http://www.clubfusioncolumbia.com) or [www.carolinablackpridemovement.com](http://www.carolinablackpridemovement.com) or [www.freewebs.com/palmettoumoja](http://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](mailto:SCPrideIdol@aol.com).

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**SAVE THE DATES:**

- Feb 4: Miss Kiki Merlot's Birthday Bash!
- Feb 12-18: Marriage Equality Week (Feb 13: Registration Day!)
- Mar 4: Pride Idol 2006!
- May 20: SC Pride 2006 in Columbia!
- June 19-26: Columbia Black Latino Gay Pride

[Check out the calendar at [www.scqlpm.org](http://www.scqlpm.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.

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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](mailto:SCPrideCenter@aol.com). If you have any questions about the bulletin or your subscription, email [SCPrideCenter@aol.com](mailto: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.