

# Q-NOTES

Switchboard, Charlotte (704) 525-6128  
AIDS Hotline, Charlotte (704) 333-AIDS  
PFLAG Hotline, Charlotte (704) 364-1474  
AIDS Hotline, Columbia (803) 779-PALS  
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■ PRIDE IN PRINT ■

TO ADVERTISE: 364 1467

## The Quilt Covers Metrolina With Compassion

By Richard Epton-Nelms  
Q-Notes Staff

The NAMES Project's International AIDS Memorial Quilt blanketed the Charlotte/Metrolina area with its silent message of remembrance and compassion for those who have died from AIDS. The opening for display was held at the Charlotte Convention Center on August 30th. The display is open to the public through Sunday, September 2nd (See inset for schedule).

The opening was a dream come true for a large number of volunteers in the Charlotte/Metrolina area, especially Sheila Lockhart, NAMES Project Chapter Chair.

Over 800 panels of the Quilt were flown to Charlotte courtesy of USAIR and Flying Tigers transport airlines. A local truck driver volunteered to transport the Quilt from the airport to the convention center. Printed materials were donated by local people, including a graphic designer, Jenny Lawing, who designed the poster.

Many individuals and companies gave of their time, money and efforts, including the Tower Club which donated food for the volunteers on Saturday. Several other restaurants are providing food and refreshments during the several days of the display.

On Monday, the day after the closing, a volunteer appreciation party at the Van-Landingham Estate was donated and Liaison's Restaurant is providing the food.

All the media efforts for the showing were donated, including a public service announcement done by Whoopi Goldberg, which was aired on local television stations. Marion Meginnis, local TV executive and past president of the board of Metrolina AIDS Project, took time not only to set up the media coverage and the Whoopi Goldberg announcement, but also to ensure that posters and flyers were provided to all the schools and libraries.

The American Red Cross, Greater Charlotte Chapter, donated first aid services for the four-day display.

Quantum Health Resources, a home health care agency, provided business cards for all of the Charlotte/Metrolina chapter steering committee.

One individual donated the two banners that read "NAMES Project, Charlotte/Metrolina." The same individual provided the embossed certificates for volunteers as well as the programs for the display. This individual says that he is donating his efforts in memory of a friend who died a year ago.

Other Chapters of the NAMES Project are providing assistance in the display, including the Raleigh Chapter, the Washington,



Photo Credit Mary Gottwald

The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial quilt is seen in its entirety — 10,848 individual 3' x 6' panels — on the Ellipse in Washington, DC, in October 1989.

DC, Chapter and the Boston Chapter, all of whom are sending representatives.

In 1987 a small group of volunteers in a San Francisco storefront workshop revived the old-fashioned notions of the quilt and the quilting-bee as a personal response to the seemingly endless tragedy of the AIDS epidemic.

Their creation — the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt — has become a powerful international symbol of those who have died of AIDS.

Today, over 12,000 three-by-six-foot individual panels have been designed and sewn into the Quilt, each one celebrating the life of someone who has died of AIDS. The NAMES Project continues to arrange Quilt displays across America, and overseas, encouraging visitors to better understand and respond to the AIDS epidemic.

In November 1985, while participating in San Francisco's Harvey Milk/George Moscone candlelight march and vigil, Cleve Jones thought of a way to memorialize his

friends and neighbors who had died of AIDS.

Before the march, organizers asked each participant to write down the names of their friends and loved ones who had died of AIDS.

At the end of the march, shrouded in a sea of candlelight, Jones and others stood on ladders to tape these names to the walls of the city's Federal Building. In the midst of the process, Jones stepped down from his ladder to view the growing tribute. It was at this moment that Jones noticed the design and resemblance of the names to a large quilt.

Inspired by this image, Jones started to formulate plans for a larger memorial. A year later, Jones created the first panel for the AIDS Memorial Quilt, to remember his friend Marvin Feldman. In June 1987, Jones teamed up with several others to organize the NAMES Project Foundation.

The goals of the organization were set then, and remain the same today:

*Continued on page 4*

### BEST BETS

Aug. 30-Sept. 2 The Quilt

Sept. 2 New Life MCC Potluck after Service

Sept. 5-6-7 Carnival of Hope (MAP fundraiser) at Oleens

Sept. 6 Elgin Kenna as Cher at Manfred's

ONE VOICE resumes rehearsals

Sept. 10 Queen City Rollers (Bowling League) organizational meeting at Coliseum Lanes

Sept. 17 Queen City Rollers Bowl!

Sept. 20 Watch Lauren Colby on Sally Jesse Raphael Show

Sept. 22 MCC Charlotte Potluck Supper

### REGISTER NOW!

If you don't register to vote by Oct. 8, you can't vote for the candidate of your choice on November 6!!!

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## One Voice Starts Concert Rehearsals Sept. 6

Fifteen potential new chorus members joined 33 regulars at the ONE VOICE SummerSing on Thursday, August 16. The evening was an informal way for new people to meet the chorus before the second season rehearsals start September 6.

The chorus will rehearse from September-December at the PC Land Building, 4037 E. Independence, Suite 726, on Thursday evenings from 7:00-9:30 pm. Rehearsals will be geared toward a December 15 Christmas Concert. New singing members are welcome to join anytime during the month of September — just show up at any rehearsal. Non-singing support members are welcome throughout the season. Support members will help with publicity, ticket sales, refreshments, the music library and much more.

Auditions are not required for ONE VOICE, Charlotte's gay and lesbian chorus which began in January. Just be able to carry a tune and have fun! For further information, call Dan Kirsch, President, at 704/536-1372.

## Lauren Colby To Appear On Sally Jesse Raphael Show

By David Stout  
Q-Notes Staff

On Thursday, September 20, the Sally Jesse Raphael Show will present to the entire nation one of the finest female impersonators to ever take the stage: North Carolina's own Lauren Colby.

Lauren's road to this national spotlight has been a journey encompassing eight years of hard work, immovable determination, and an unflinching belief that she could do anything she set her mind to do.

Lauren said that the first time she ever saw a female impersonator was in Jacksonville, NC, and the performer was Brandy Alexander. "That really made an impression on me and I said to myself, 'I could do that.'"

So Lauren assembled some friends to help her apply her make-up (this is called painting) and to make her padding to give her a feminine figure and Lauren Colby was born. Now there was only one problem: she was too young to get into most bars because she was under drinking age.

"As soon as I turned eighteen, they raised the legal drinking age on me so I couldn't get into the clubs. I had to make arrangements with the bar owners and managers ahead of time to let me come in and perform."

Two years passed while Lauren honed her skills and crafted the persona of her character, then she decided to enter her first pageant.



Lauren Colby

Most people thought the young entertainer was getting in way over her head when she announced that she was going to be a contestant in the Miss North Carolina Pageant.

After all, there would be performers with years of experience there making a third or even fourth attempt at winning the crown, what chance would a novice (with absolutely no competition experience) have in even making a respectable showing?

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