

Out

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For more information on corporate sponsorships or to request a walker packet, call 704-372-7246 or email ElaineatRAIN@aol.com.

THE 19TH ANNUAL BENEFIT ART AUCTION for The Light Factory, 809 W. Hill St., Charlotte, runs from 7:00 - 11:00 pm. The Light Factory presents exhibitions of photography, video, film and digital imaging as well as education programs, community outreach and special events. Admission is \$25 (\$20 for members in advance). For more information, call 704-333-9755 or visit www.lightfactory.org.

BY REQUEST - A CABARET is the name of tonight's One Voice Chorus salute to Broadway. See the May 4 entry for details.

GRRRL BANDS are in the spotlight at Tremont Music Hall, 400 W. Tremont Ave., Charlotte, as Christy Snow & Friends, The Jill Austin Band and The Lesbian Truck Payment Experience, take the stage. Doors open at 8:30 pm and admission is \$10 (\$8 with a ticket stub from tonight's One Voice performance). For more information, contact Tremont Music Hall at 704-343-9494.

DINING WITH FRIENDS will raise funds for AID Upstate through a variety of dinner parties across Greenville, SC. A community dinner will be begin at 7:30 pm in the Roe Cabaret Room of the Peace Center for the Performing Arts, 101 W. Broad St., Greenville. At 9:30 pm, a Dessert Finale will be held in the Peace Center's Wyche Pavilion and a \$25 donation is requested. For more information, contact AID Upstate at 864-250-0607.

PRIDE PARTY 2001, the official dance of Charlotte Pride 2001, invites you to shake your groove thang from 10:00 pm - 4:00 am at Genesis, 607 West 5th St. in downtown Charlotte. Genesis' resident DJ Randall will supply the music mix. Admission is \$6 members; \$10 guests. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Charlotte Pride 2001.

AN OFFICERS BALL, the official dance of Trademark XV, will feature partygoers decked out in an array of Leather and uniforms. The fun takes place in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Charlotte Airport Hotel, 3315 S. I-85 Service Rd., from 10:00 pm - 1:00 am. Admission is a \$10 donation and proceeds will benefit the House of Mercy hospice. Dress code is enforced. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Trademark XV.

RELEASE PARTY 2001, the highlight event of the Release 2001 weekend, will be held at Mythos, corner of 6th and N. College in downtown Charlotte, from 10:30 pm - 6:00 am. Guest DJ Billy Carroll (NYC, Miami) will bring the noise and recording artist Amber ("Above the Clouds," "Love One Another") will perform. Admission is \$50 at the door. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Release 2001.

Netherlands

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— with a 1995 Scandinavian treaty to respect each other's registered partnerships.

France also created a form of marital recognition for same-sex couples in 1999. In legal victories abroad courts have recognized the marital nature of committed gay and lesbian relationships in Columbia, Hungary, Israel, Namibia, and South Africa. And in May 1999, the Canadian Supreme Court mandated that the definition of "spouse" must include same-sex partnerships. Still other countries are currently considering same-sex partner recognition, including Germany, Switzerland, Spain, and the Czech Republic.

"With examples like marriage in [the Netherlands], civil unions in Vermont, and growing public support here in the US, we can engage even more fair-minded Americans in helping end discrimination in marriage," added David Buckel, newly appointed Coordinator of Lambda's Marriage Project.

"It's time for the United States to get back in the lead on liberty and equality."

In the United States, where to date same-

▼ Sunday, May 6

PRIDE CHILL-OUT BRUNCH at Liaisons, 316 Rensselaer Ave., is another official event of Charlotte Pride 2001 so come eat, drink and be Merry with your friends from the community. Admission is \$10 for club members and \$12 for guests. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Charlotte Pride 2001.

FRENCH CAFÉ RECOVERY BRUNCH should help Release 2001 revelers pull themselves together for this final day of partying. Cosmos Cafe, corner of 6th and College in downtown Charlotte, will host from noon - 4:00 pm and the Kim Carper Duo will provide soothing vocals. Admission is \$25 at the door. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Release 2001.

FRIENDSHIP TEA DANCE continues the run of Release 2001. Guest DJ Bumper (Columbia, Atlanta) will move the crowd at Mythos, corner of 6th and College in downtown Charlotte, from 5:00 - 11:00 pm. CD giveaways will feature the latest from Fragma, Ultra Naté, Gspot and DaRude. Admission is \$20 at the door. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Release 2001.

A HOEDOWN TEA DANCE will be hosted by Hartigan's Pub, 601 S. Cedar St., Charlotte, in conjunction with Southern Country Charlotte from 5:00 - 10:00 pm. Admission is free. For more information, contact Hartigan's Pub at 704-347-1841.

LUTHERANS CONCERNED meets from 5:00 - 8:00 pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 1900 The Plaza, Charlotte. A covered dish will be shared at 5:00 pm followed by a program at 6:00 pm. For more information, contact info@lccharlotte.org.

PAULA POUNDSTONE will showcase her quirky humor at 7:00 pm in the Belk Theater of the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, 130 N. Tryon St., Charlotte. Poundstone has made numerous appearances on *The Tonight Show* and *The Rosie O'Donnell Show* and has hosted her own shows on ABC and HBO. Tickets are \$12 - \$28. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the PAC box office at 704-372-1000 or visit www.performingartsctr.org.

WIND-DOWN PARTY closes out Release 2001 weekend. Those with the strength left can gather at Q, 521 N. College St., Charlotte, from 11:00 pm - 2:00 am. See May 4 - 6 entry for more information on Release 2001.

▼ Saturday & Sunday, May 11 & 12

NC DANCE THEATRE presents its Spring Program at 8:00 pm in the Belk Theater of the North Carolina Blumenthal Performing Arts Center, 130 N. Tryon St., Charlotte. The show will take audiences on a trip to the Old West, Paris and Spain through the choreography of George Balanchine, Nacho Duato and NCDT Executive/Artistic Director Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux. Tickets are \$17 - \$50. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the PAC box office at 704-372-1000 or visit www.ncdance.org.

sex couples are excluded from marriage in all 50 states, gay and lesbian families lack the most basic of protections, including the automatic ability to make medical decisions on a partner's behalf, visit in the hospital, inherit, have joint parenting, adoption, foster care, custody, and visitation, file joint tax returns, and share such government benefits as Social Security and Medicare. Hawaii and Vermont, however, have enacted more extensive protections for same-sex couples.

After several years of groundwork by community activists and a 1999 victory in the Vermont Supreme Court (*Baker v. Vermont*), that state conferred upon same-sex couples the most comprehensive set of protections offered them anywhere in the United States. A new marital status called Civil Union provides same-sex couples all of the Vermont-sponsored protections and responsibilities of marriage, but still leaves those couples unequal and with a lesser status than heterosexual couples.

The new Dutch law will require that at least one partner must be a Dutch citizen or resident, the same requirement for heterosexual couples who marry and any couple entering a registered partnership. ▼

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