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News notes: nc

from the tarheel state

Quillan to leave One Voice

CHARLOTTE — One Voice, the gay, lesbian and gay-affirmative chorus of Charlotte, has announced the retirement of longtime Artistic Director John Quillan at the end of this year. Quillan has been the Artistic Director of the nationally recognized group for 11 years and was Assistant Director of the group for three and a half years prior to taking the lead role.

One Voice, a non-auditioned choral group of up to 70 singing members, is celebrating its 15th season of entertaining and educating Charlotte and beyond. Through artistic excellence, One Voice works to increase understanding and acceptance of gay men and lesbians. Their achievement in choral music has earned them national recognition among the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA), as well as local admiration.

With over nine months to conduct a search for a new artistic director, both One Voice and Quillan anticipate some exciting possibilities to emerge. "I can assure you that this podium is a very desirable one," Quillan confides. "I think the group will have some terrific candidates from across the country apply."

In the meantime Quillan's hard work with the chorus continues. He will lead the chorus through three more shows this year: the showcase of the Sotto Voce ensemble on May 1 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, the full chorus presentation of Camp Broadway on June 19 at First United Methodist downtown, and Quillan's final show as director of this December's holiday concert.

Play and Discussion about gay marriage

CHARLOTTE — "Sweet Land Of Liberty" will be read by Theatre for Change on Apr. 14, 7 p.m., at the Evening Muse in NoDa. The reading is directed by Allison Modafferi and produced by Modafferi, Matt Olin and Anne Lambert. A cast of some of Charlotte's finest actors, including Gina Stewart, Scott Helm, Joanna Gerdy, Derek Gamba and Matt Cosper, will read the play. A discussion

with the audience and the artists, concerning the issue of gay marriage, will follow the reading of the work.

Admission is free.

Info: call 704-277-7098 or email ninthnote@earthlink.net

Carolina Rainbow News celebrates seventh anniversary

CHARLOTTE — Carolina Rainbow News (CRN) celebrated its seventh anniversary on Apr. 4.

The email newsletter was established in 1997 as a result of the Mecklenburg County arts funding controversy. The newsletter was founded by Charlotte resident Jeff Schmehl to inform the LGBT community of upcoming organizational news. The newsletter's original name was Charlotte N.C. Info. It was later renamed to Charlotte Rainbow Newsletter and then to Carolina Rainbow News (or CRN) as the focus changed to include news both North and South Carolina.

In the past year CRN moved from the Yahoo Groups service to its own website, www.rainbow-news.com. The website is a more interactive community with more features in addition to the newsletter. In early 2004, with the help of Nicholas Marthers, CRN updated its logo to a more modern design and most recently the website was awarded a "Power in Pride" award because it "honors diversity and shows pride for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans community on the internet."

"The newsletter has grown to over 1,100 subscribers in seven years," stated Schmehl, who continues to do the project on his own. "CRN has always been a free service. All aspects of the new website are free, including the banner advertisements. It's an enjoyable hobby for me that I will continue to produce on my own. This is my contribution of something positive to my community. The only contributions I request are news items and that people spread the word about CRN."

Schmehl, who previously volunteered for organizations such as the former OutCharlotte and served as co-director for Charlotte Pride, has lived in Charlotte for 11 years after relocating from Reading, Penn. In 2001 he was a recipient of a "Don King Community Service Award" for his work with CRN.

"I hear from subscribers and LGBT community members how much they appreciate CRN. That's what motivates me to continue producing and expanding it," said Schmehl.

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