

## Charlotte Business Expo

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 12-4 p.m.  
Lesbian & Gay Community Center  
820 Hamilton St., Suite B-11, Charlotte

**Marketing & Promoting Local Businesses:**  
Space (8-foot tables)

Guild Members: \$65 Half; \$100 Full  
Non-Members: \$110 Half; \$145 Full  
Non-Member Fee includes 1-year CBG membership (\$50 value)

**To Reserve or For More Information:**  
Call 704-565-5075, email [businessguild@yahoo.com](mailto:businessguild@yahoo.com),  
or visit [www.charlottebusinessguild.com](http://www.charlottebusinessguild.com).

**Door prizes to be awarded.  
Donations accepted. Recognition announced.**

GLBT



1st Annual  
CBG Business Expo

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NORTH CAROLINA

## North Carolina News Notes

with the Temple, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and others. It has recently sold pastries to benefit social action needs in the community.

### CHARLOTTE

#### Book signing on agenda

CHARLOTTE — Author Frances Richter is scheduled to appear at the CBG Business Expo on March 21, where she will autograph copies of her LGBT mystery novel, "Friend of the Firm," featuring lesbian homicide defense attorney Sheldon Bailey.

The book is Richter's introductory novel, but the second of the series. "Love Valley" is due out later this year.

Bailey, an unconventional protagonist, not only has time to solve murders and maintain an active personal life, but has begun to publish a monthly column for LGBT ezines, newspapers, newsletters and magazines under the byline SheldonBailey.com.

For more information, call Renae Elam, Moonfest Publishing, at 704-502-2415 or visit [www.francesrichters.com](http://www.francesrichters.com).

#### Sing it out!

CHARLOTTE — The spring concert of One Voice Chorus will be held on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 501 N. Tryon St.

The theme is "Within Me," a recognition and celebration of the civil and LGBT rights movements in America in song and spoken word. It is being produced in cooperation with the Regional AIDS Interfaith Network.

A reception will follow the concert. There will be a drawing of a signed and numbered piece by photographer Jon Bidwell.

Tickets are \$20 and will benefit the Chorus and RAIN and are available at White Rabbit, 920 Central Ave., Paper Skyscraper, 330 East Blvd. and at [www.onevoicechorus.com](http://www.onevoicechorus.com).

#### Lend a hand

CHARLOTTE — Pride Charlotte is looking for two ambitious folks to head up volunteer and vendor coordination for this year's event on July 25 at Gateway Village.

The following entertainers have been booked for this year's event: Amy Steinberg, Joshua Klipp, Crys Matthews, Rodie Ray, Jill Austin Band, Beledi Beat Dancers, One Voice Chorus, Gay Men's Chorus and more to be announced at a later date.

For more information about these volunteer committee positions, contact Jeff Schmehl at [jschmehl@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jschmehl@carolina.rr.com) or visit [www.pridecharlotte.com](http://www.pridecharlotte.com).

#### Survey seeks participants

CHARLOTTE — The Task Force on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Inclusion, an initiative of Temple Beth El, is asking its members, as well as those in the Jewish community at large, to join in its survey to determine how to best meet the needs of the congregation.

They want to gather information to better serve the community.

Also, the task force is seeking volunteers who would like to help with the survey, organize a focus group and aid in research.

The Temple's Chavurah Keshet (Rainbow Friends) has been a safe place for LGBT congregants to gather for lifecycle, holiday and other events for over a decade. It was started by the late Alan Rosenberg who served as an advocate for the Queen City community through his work

needs in the community.

To participate, visit [www.beth-el.com/GLBT](http://www.beth-el.com/GLBT). For more information, call Rabbi Micah Streiffer at 704-366-1948 or email [mstreiffer@beth-el.com](mailto:mstreiffer@beth-el.com).

### TRIAD

#### Rowan board votes for resolution

SALISBURY — More than 100 people turned out to the Feb. 16 evening meeting of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners as elected officials took up the issue of same-sex marriage.

In a standing-room-only board chambers, members of the board voted unanimously to approve a resolution urging the North Carolina General Assembly to pass a state constitutional amendment banning any relationship recognition for same-sex couples.

All board members, including the two Democratic members Raymond Coltrain and Tina Hall, said they were in favor of the resolution only because it urges state legislators to allow citizens to vote on the contentious issue of gay marriage.

The resolution had originally been placed on the board's consent agenda, which falls immediately prior to the public comment period. As the meeting started, the board voted unanimously to remove the resolution from the consent agenda. It was made the first item on the board's regular agenda, immediately following public comment.

Despite having a massive list of citizens desiring to address the board during public comment, County Board Chairman Carl Ford cut off the public comment period after only 18 citizens had spoken. Speakers were evenly split between those against the resolution and those for it.

"Putting the rights of a minority to the vote of the majority defies the very essence of our republic," EqualityNC board member and Salisbury resident Rod Goins said during the public comment period. "The Founding Fathers set up our constitutional democracy to protect the minority from the tyranny of the majority."

Chairman Carl Ford said that two state senators — James Forrester and Jim Jacumin — had asked every county commission to draft resolutions in favor of the marriage amendment. "I couldn't ignore that," he said.

The board's resolution will be forwarded to members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

To read the full story online, visit [www.q-notes.com](http://www.q-notes.com).

### TRIANGLE

#### Mark your calendars!

RALEIGH — The Triangle Families/Gay Dad's Group Potluck Picnic will be held at Pullen Park at Shelter #1 on June 20 at 1 p.m.

Gay parents, kids, family, friends and allies are invited to attend and bring food to share.

The shelter is tucked away at the far end of the pond inside the train tracks. Park rides and concessions will be open.

Be sure to toss a Frisbee, ball or other toys in your car to help make the day playful.

If interested, visit The Raleigh Area Gay Parents Meetup Group at [gayparents.meetup.com/78/calendar/9831360](http://gayparents.meetup.com/78/calendar/9831360) and sign up, along

see next page >

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